

Welcome Message

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

This month we have 27 calls, most of which are from European organisations, but a small number of important schemes and announcements from Japanese organisations. As usual, they cover all ranges of the career spectrum: from PhD to senior levels.

We have 13 event announcements this month, from natural science as well as the social sciences and humanities fields. There are also announcements, particularly from RIKEN for poster submissions for the Tanabata meeting in the genomic sciences.

In the Call Results section we look at recent results for bilaterally funded projects between the European Union and Japan, in the field of the environment.

In the News and Developments section most of our attention is given to Japan related issues this month. Firstly, we look at new data on R&D investment in Japan. Following the economic crisis in 2008/9 there have been continued reductions in R&D expenditures. This year marks the third consecutive decline, dropping to 3.57% of GDP. This does not appear to be affecting employment trends however.

Secondly we look at the number of foreign students in Japan. This survey, which was taken in May 2011, shows a drop off in the number of international students. It is not clear if this is part of a new trend or a simple response to the timing of the survey following the events of March last year.

The *In-Focus* section looks at the new budgetary commitments for science and research in Japan's initial budget published in December. As was commented in much of the press, this budget is financed chiefly by bond issuance. For science, the budget is a mixed bag. Broadly in line with previous initial budgets, there has been some re-allocation of expenditures away from some ministries towards others. MEXT overall has been a net beneficiary and due to its size we concentrate on the many new programmes or expanded commitments to research by that ministry. Priorities are the internationalisation of human resource development, as well as increased commitments towards Grant-in-Aid, the WPI budget and some other key research and innovation projects.

In wishing you a successful month ahead,

Lee

About Euraxess Links Japan

EURAXESS LINKS Japan provide a monthly electronic newsletter that seeks to provide information on calls, job and collaboration opportunities in and between Europe and Japan. We currently mail this newsletter to over 1000 researchers, and European and Japanese funding & scientific representatives.

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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7th Framework Programme Calls

The European Commission unveiled the latest call for proposals for participation in the Seventh Framework Programme. The overall budget is €5.3 billion.

The main focus of the calls is the integration of research with innovation to tackle societal challenges and create sustainable jobs and growth by giving Europe a lead in the key technology markets of the future. All of the calls are open for the participation of non-European researchers and/or research organisations working alongside their EU counterparts.



The following link provides researchers working in Japan with a brief overview of these current calls, and highlight some specific topics which may be of particular interest:

[FP7 2012 Work Programme International Dimension: Opportunities for Japan](#)

The document introduces the basic information on each field and areas where there may be scope for cooperation on mutual areas of interest. It covers the following fields:

- Health
- Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries Biotechnology (FAFB)
- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies (NMP)
- Energy
- Environment
- Transport
- Transport - including Aeronautics. This includes co-ordinated calls with METI in 5 areas.
- Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities
- Space
- Security
- Research Infrastructures
- Science in Society
- Marie Curie Actions: IRSES,

If you require any support or assistance for participating in the above calls, please contact the J-Bilat project manager in Japan, Dr Toshiyasu Ichioka:

[J-Bilat Homepage](#)

Recent & Forthcoming Calls

Austria: Ernst Mach Grant

This scheme is open to postgraduates (i.e. PhD students, post-docs and young university lecturers) who primarily want to perform research in Austria. The duration is between 1 and 9 months.

Deadline: 1 March

Further Information: [Austrian Research Grants](#)

Austria: Richard Plaschka Scholarship

Recipients of Plaschka grant recipients can work as visiting researchers at university departments and institutes and carry out specialist studies in libraries, archives or at research institutions.

Eligible for application are only university lecturers in the field of history who are primarily occupied with Austria-related topics. The application must be accompanied by a list stating the titles of the lectures the applicant is holding.

It is absolutely essential that prior contact with an educational or research institution in Austria has already been made.

Deadline: 1 March

Further information: [Austrian Research Grants](#)

Belgium: Odysseus Programme

The Flemish Government, wishing to attract top level researchers to Flanders, created in 2006 the Odysseus programme.

The programme encourages researchers, in all scientific disciplines, who established their career (mainly) abroad to pursue an independent research career at a Flemish university by supporting them with a start-up project, including the development of a research group where appropriate, aimed at opening up new lines of research.

Deadline: 1 April

Further Information: [FWO](#)

Featured Call

European Research Council: Advanced Grant Call

The ERC Advanced Grant Call was published on 16 November. ERC Advanced Grants provide funding for up to 5 years for pioneering research in any field of science, engineering and scholarship.

The deadlines for each area of research are as follows:

- Physical Sciences and Engineering: 16 February 2012
- Life Sciences: 14 March 2012
- Social Sciences and Humanities: 11 April 2012

Further information on the call is available from the [ERC homepage](#)

Belgium: Research & Return Grants

These grants are aimed to promote the reintegration of highly qualified Belgian researchers working with at least 2 years in a foreign country. Eligible candidates must be Belgian nationals OR having spent at least 3 years in Belgium for R&D or higher education purposes, before their post-doctoral stay abroad.

Deadline: 27 February

Further Information: [Belspo](#)

Belgium: Postdoc Fellowships to Non-European Researchers

For highly qualified researchers (with postdoctoral or equivalent experience) from specific countries (including Japan) that allows the opportunity to work for a period of 6 to 18 months in a Belgian research team.

Deadline: 5 March

Further information: [Belspo](#)

CERN: Various openings

CERN are advertising numerous positions, including the following:

- CERN Fellowship Programme (deadline: 1 March)
- Technical / Doctoral or Administrative Programmes (Deadline: 24 April)
- Summer Student Programme (Deadline: 25 January).

Further information: [CERN](#)

Europe: Joint Research Centre

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre is currently advertising the following vacancies:

- 4 postdoctoral positions -various research fields.
- 1 senior researcher positions

Deadlines: Various

Further Information: [JRC](#)

Euraxess Jobs Portal

The Euraxess Jobs portal is currently advertising 3,060 research jobs, and 1,122 Fellowships throughout Europe and the Associated Countries.

Please check: [Euraxess Links Jobs](#)

Europe: EMBO Long Term Fellowships

The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) will accept applications to its Long Term Fellowships programme. The Fellowship may be awarded up to a period of 24 months.

All fellowships must involve movement between countries and one of those countries must be an EMBC Member State.

All applications must involve movement between countries. The receiving institute or the applicant's nationality must be from one of the EMBC Member States.

Deadline: 15 February

Further Information: [EMBO](#)

Finland: Finnish Government Scholarship Pool

The Finnish Government offers scholarships of 3-9 months for Doctoral level studies and research at Finnish [universities](#).

The Finnish Government Scholarship Pool programme is open to young researchers from all academic fields. The scholarship cannot be applied for Master's level studies or post-Doctoral studies/research.

Further Information: [Study in Finland](#)

Finland: Finland Distinguished Professor Programme (FIDIPRO)

Finnish universities and research institutes can apply for FiDiPro funding from the Academy of Finland or from Tekes. The funding allows research teams to invite international top researchers to work in Finland for 2–5 years.

Deadline: 30 March

Further Information: [FIDIPRO](#)

France: Post Doctoral Return

This programme provides funding for the return of postdoctoral researchers to France.

All research fields are covered. The maximum duration of funding is three years.

Deadline: 13 March

Further information: [ANR](#)

France: Chairs of Excellence

The Chairs of Excellence Programme aims to attract to France the best researchers, professors, foreign or French, by offering, with the assistance of the host establishments and organizations, substantial resources to build up a team and to start an ambitious project with clear anticipated impact.

The 2012 programme proposes three types of chairs:

- 1 Long-term Junior and
- 2 Senior Chairs of Excellence
- 3 Short-term Senior Chairs of Excellence

Deadline: 16 March

Further Information: [ANR](#)

Japan: JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (short term)

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) will accept applications for their short term (1-12month period) postdoctoral fellowships. This is the third call under this programme. The next will be in April.

Application Period: 30 January to 3 February

Further Information: [JSPS](#)

Japan: JSPS Invitation Fellowship Program for Research in Japan (Short Term)

The JSPS have published information on their homepage regarding the Invitation Fellowship Program for Research in Japan.

The program allows researchers employed at designated Japanese research institutions and laboratories to invite fellow researchers from other countries to Japan for short periods of time to participate in discussions, attend seminars, give lectures, or perform similar duties at their institutions.

This is the second call this year under the scheme.

Deadline: 11 May

Further information: [JSPS](#)

Japan: RIKEN

RIKEN have numerous openings at their various centres. Advertised positions include:

- Various postdoctoral & technical positions
- Positions at the [Advanced Science Institute](#)
- [Brain Science Institute](#)
- [Accelerator-Based Science](#)
- [Spring8](#)

See the [RIKEN Career Opportunities](#) page for the full list of openings.

Japan: RIKEN BSI Summer School

The Brain Science Institute at RIKEN will begin accepting applications for its BSI Summer School programme.

The title of the 2012 programme is: "The Collective Brain: How does the Collective Interaction of Neurons make our Mind Work?".

Deadline: 29 February

Further Information: [RIKEN](#)

JREC-IN Openings

The Japan Research Career Information Network (JREC-In) is currently advertising 124 positions in English and 1,937 in Japanese.

Further Information: [JREC-IN](#)

Japan: Openings at WPI Centres

The [World Premier International Research Centres](#) provide a number of opportunities for foreign researchers.

Positions advertised recently include:

[Immunology Frontier Research Center \(Osaka University\)](#)

- [Specially Appointed Researcher](#)

[Institute for Integrated Cell Material Sciences](#)

- [Carlton Group](#), two positions.
-

Japan: Tenure Track / Other Positions

The following positions have been advertised at Japanese institutes:

- [Research Positions](#), National Institute of Materials Science, Deadlines: Various
- [Associate Professor](#), Japanese Literature, University of Tokyo, Deadline: 5 March
- [Associate Prof.](#) (primate research), Kyoto University, Deadline: 12 March
- [Faculty Position](#) (knowledge science), JAIST. Deadline: 10 February
- [Social Science Japan Journal](#), Managing Editor, Deadline: 27 January
- [Professor/Associate Professor](#), Economics, Tsukuba University, Deadline: 24 February
- [Assistant Professor Positions](#), Various, JAIST
- [Centre for International Education](#), Waseda University

For other positions in Japan, please see the [JREC-IN](#) website.

Luxembourg: ATTRACT Programme

Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg has opened the call for its ATTRACT programme.

The programme is designed for researchers not yet established in Luxembourg to set up their own independent research team there. Applicants should have more than 2 but less than 8 years professional post-PhD. experience.

The duration of projects is 5 years with funding of up to EUR 1.5m available.

Deadline for pre-proposal form submission: 6 February (2 April full deadline).

Further Information: [ENR](#)

Luxembourg: AFR PhD/Postdoctoral Grants

The National Research Fund Luxembourg will support PhD and postdoctoral research training projects in Luxembourg and abroad, up to 4 years for PhDs and up to 2 years for postdocs.

The main objective of the scheme is to improve the general working conditions and career perspectives of researchers, by giving early stage researchers access to work contracts and supplementary training opportunities.

Postdoctoral Deadline: 7 March

PhD Deadline: 28 March

Further information: [AFR Programme](#)

Netherlands: Internationalisation in the Humanities

This programme is to facilitate the international cooperation between Dutch research groups and their foreign colleagues, stimulate the formation of international networks within the humanities and encourage humanities applications to international agencies.

The application must be submitted by a Dutch research group (research school, research institute or department of the applicant) that wants to work with at least two foreign research groups.

Deadline: 1 March

Further information: [NWO](#)

Netherlands: VICI Programme (Senior Researchers)

This programme is for senior researchers to build their own research group in the Netherlands. A maximum of 1,500,000 euro is awarded.

The scheme is directed at providing encouragement for individual researchers and gives talented, creative researchers the opportunity to conduct their own research programme independently and promote talented researchers to enter and remain committed to the scientific profession.

Pre-proposals should be submitted by 29 March 2012

Further information: [NWO](#)

Norway: Young Guest & Doctoral Researchers Annual Scholarships for Investigation & Learning (Yggdrasil)

This programme promotes the internationalisation of Norwegian research by offering grants to international Ph.D. students and younger researchers in connection with research stays in Norway.

Grant applications will be accepted from European and non-European countries (including from Japan).

Deadline: 15 February

Further Information: [Research Council of Norway](#)

Poland: Conference Grants

Grants are available to support participation in international symposia, conferences and congresses for young researchers. The selection procedure is run by the Warsaw Scientific Society.

Next deadline: 28 February

Further information: [ENP](#)

Turkey: Global Researcher Programme

This is a scheme by TÜBİTAK to support research stays in Turkey for more than one month, and less than 36 months.

Deadline: first week of March

Further information: [TÜBİTAK](#)

Poland: Homing Plus

The objective of the programme is to encourage young Polish scholars abroad to return to Poland. The programme is also open to young PhDs who are citizens of other countries but interested in spending a postdoctoral fellowship in Poland. Relevant fields: Bio, Info, Technology

Deadline: 15 March

Further information: [ENP](#)

United Nations University- UNU-IAS Fellowship Programme

The United Nations University Institute for Advanced Study (UNU-IAS) based in Japan, offers PhD and postdoctoral fellowships to provide young scholars and policymakers, especially from the developing world, with a multidisciplinary context within which to pursue advanced research and training that are of professional interest to the successful applicant and of direct relevance to the research agenda of their selected UNU-IAS or UNU-ISP programme.

Deadline: 29 February

Further Information: [UNU-IAS](#)

Spain: ICFOnest

The Institute of Photonic Sciences is seeking an experienced researcher (4-10 years postdoctoral experience. Relevant fields: Technology, medical sciences, physics.

Deadline: 9 March

Further information: [Euraxess Jobs](#)

UK: Daiwa Foundation Small Grants & Daiwa Foundation Awards

The Daiwa Foundation will accept applications to support the following two programmes:

- Small Grants

These are grants of £3,000-£7,000 to individuals, societies, associations or other bodies in the UK or Japan to promote and support interaction between the two countries. Deadline: 31 March

Sweden: International Postdoctoral Grant

This is a new grant provided by the Swedish Research Council.

The first call for applications will open in January, with a last application date of 23 February.

Further information/Contact details: [SRC](#)

- Daiwa Foundation Awards

Awards of £7,000-£15,000 are available for collaborative projects that enable British and Japanese partners to work together, preferably in the context of an institutional relationship. Deadline 31 March

Further Information: [Daiwa Foundation](#)

**UK: British Academy International
Partnership & Mobility Scheme**

One-year awards of £10,000 and three-year awards of up to £30,000 are available to support the development of research partnerships between UK scholars and scholars in Africa, East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and South Asia. Awards cover any branch of the humanities and social sciences, and are intended to focus on collaborative research on a specific theme of mutual interest, rather than purely on establishing networks. Applicants must be of postdoctoral or equivalent status (i.e. academic staff with at least one or two years of teaching/ research experience) and should be based within a research active institution for the duration of the award.

Deadline: 8 February 2012

Further Information: [British Academy](#)

Wondering what calls are further ahead?

Please refer to our comprehensive [Funding Guide Document](#) for all the EU, European, & Japanese programmes.

Event Announcements

DIJ Forum: University-Industry Research Collaborations in Japan, the United States and Korea

Talk by Professor Martin Hemmert from the Korea University Business School in Seoul.

The presentation is based on analysis of more than 600 cases of university industry business collaborations.

The talk will be given in English.

Location: DIJ, Tokyo

Date: 9 February (from 18:30)

Further Information: [DIJ](#)

DIJ: Leadership Succession at Foreign Subsidiaries in Japan

Talk by Fabian Jintae Froese, from Korea University.

Location: DIJ, Tokyo

Further Information: [DIJ](#)

ERA Conference 2012: Fostering Efficiency, Excellence and Growth

The conference is an important milestone in the ongoing preparations of the ERA Framework. In it, the responses to public consultation and their implications will be presented and discussed.

Location: Brussels

Date: 30 January

Further Information: [DG RTD](#)

ESF - JSPS Frontier Science Conference

The European Science Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science will host their annual conference series for young researchers. The topic this year will be:

Mathematics for Innovation: Large and Complex Systems

The conference will take place between 28 February and 4 March.

The event will take place at a hotel in central Tokyo.

Further information: [JSPS](#)

IAU Symposium 279: Death of Massive Stars: Supernovae and Gamma Ray Bursts

Event organised by the International Astronomical Union the SwRI and Japanese hosts, including IPMU, TITECH, the JSPS.

Location: Nikko, Japan

Dates: 12-16 March

Further Information: [TITECH](#)

Intangible Investment, Innovation and Productivity

Event organised by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP).

Date: 27 January

Further information: [NISTEP](#)

International Symposium on Development of Core Technologies for Green Nanoelectronics

Event taking place at Miraican in Odaiba, Tokyo on 14 March.

The event is sponsored by AIST, Tsukuba Innovation Arena, and the Green Nanoelectronics Centre.

Further Information: [gnc-sympo.jp](#)

IPMU: Growing Black Holes in COSMOS

Event organised by the Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, University of Tokyo.

Dates: 13-17 February

Further Information: [IPMU](#)

Japan-Sweden Research Cooperation

This Symposium will address “Protein Subcellular Localization and Related Topics”.

This workshop is planned as part of a JST sponsored program for collaboration research between Japan and Sweden. Presentations on a broad range of protein related topics are planned.

Date: 24-7 January

Further Information: [CBRC](#)

Maison Franco Japonaise forthcoming events over January

The Maison Franco Japonaise will organise a series of events over January. These include a doctoral seminar, principles of Asian contract law (invitation only), the crisis

of Japan today: reflexions of a historian, and others.

Further Information: [MFJ](#)

MANA International Symposium

The International Center for Materials

Nanoarchitectonics (MANA) will host an their annual International Symposium between 29 February and 2 March. Registration is open until 24th February.

Location: Tsukuba

Further Information: [MANA](#)

Nanotech Japan 2012

World’s largest nanotechnology fair and an essential event for reviewing state-of the-art manufacturing.

Date: 15-17 February

Further Information: [Nanotech 2012](#)

Tanabata Meeting: 3rd Genomic Sciences Research Complex

The RIKEN Yokohama Institute are to host the 3rd Genomic Sciences Research Complex meeting.

This provides the opportunity for young scientists to give research presentations.

Poster presenters should be <35 years old and working at a Japanese institution (any nationality) or a Japanese researcher based overseas.

Deadline for submission of posters: 9 March

Event date: 6 July

Further Information: [RIKEN](#)

Please see the final pages for a further listing of events in Japan over coming months.

Call Results

Japan-EU Collaboration in the Environment field

The results of a joint call between the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Directorate General for Research in the European Commission in the field of the environment were published on 28 December.

According to the press release issued by the JST, four projects have been selected.

Collaborations will occur between the following institutions:

1. National Institute of Materials Science and the Institute for Occupational Medicine
2. Hokkaido University and
3. Tokyo University and the European Space Agency
4. Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences and CIRAD, France

A total of 8 submissions were received in response to the call last year. The selected projects will be mutually funded for a period of three years.

Further information:

[JST](#)

News and Developments

Survey of Science and Technology in Japan

The Statistical Bureau of the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) has published the results of the annual survey into research and development (R&D).

The survey, published on 14 December, has been running since 1953 and covers overall trends in R&D expenditures and personnel among industry, the universities, and non-profit and governmental sectors responsible for the performance of R&D.

For the second time in a row, the proportion of Gross Domestic Product spent of research and development has decreased., from the high of 3.84% in 2008 to 3.57% in 2010. To put this figure in context, in the EU27 the proportion of GDP dedicated to R&D is 2% as of 2010. In the USA, as of 2008 it was 2.79% (see [Eurostat](#)).

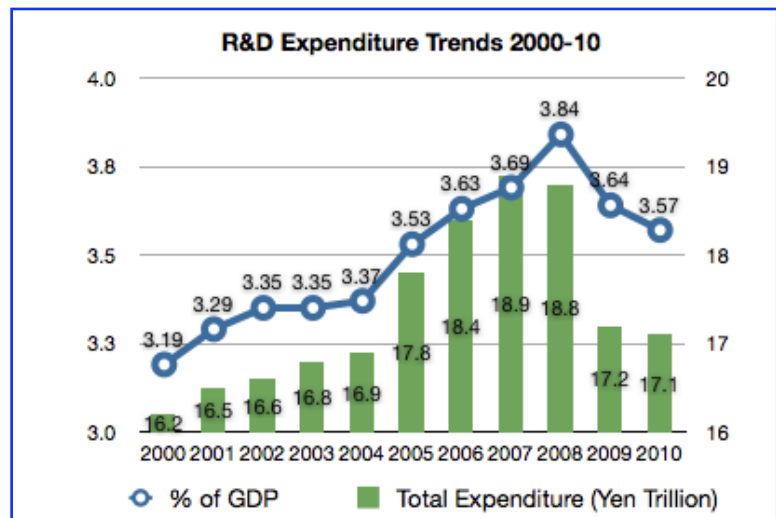
Just over 70% of firm expenditures on R&D are spent by firms with capital above €100bn. There was no substantial change in their R&D expenditures between 2009 and 2010 (0%). For smaller companies with capital between EUR 100,000 and EUR1m, there was a growth in expenditures of 5.8%.

As of March 2011, there were 842,900 employed directly in research, an increase from 840,300 in 2010. There has been a positive growth in researchers since 2001. The total number of people employed in research related activities, including technicians, research administration, and research support is 1,064,800. This increased by 0.1% on last year.

The number of female researchers continues to increase, and now comprises 13.8% of the research labour force, up from 10.9% in 2001. The total number of female researchers is now 123,200.

The full report is available from the Statistical bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC):

MIC, (2011), [平成 23 年 科学技術研究調査 結果の概要](#)



Dip in Number of Foreign Students in Japan

The Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) released statistics in January regarding the number of foreign students in Japan. The data covers all universities and graduate schools, as well as junior colleges, technical colleges and vocational schools, or university preparatory courses, with "college student" visa status.

It covers the number of such students here on 1 May 2011.

Last year the number of foreign students peaked at 141,744, but this year declines to 138,075 students, a drop of 2.6%.

Of these, the number of undergraduate students is 71,244, declining slightly from 72,665 in 2010. Graduate school students increase from 39,097 to 39,749 in 2011.

The source regions for students is mostly from Asia. As shown in the table below, 129,163 students (93.5%) are from Asia. As a proportion this is an increase on last year. The number from Europe is 3,722 or 2.7%; 1,742 are from North America (1.3%), Africa 1,136 (0.8%), Middle east 1,018 (0.7%), Latin America 886 (0.6%) and Oceania 408 students (0.3%).

Foreign Students in Japan on 1 May 2011 (2010 in brackets)				
			Short Term	
	Students	Percentage	Students	Percentage
Asia	129,163 (130,955)	93.5 (92.4)	6,192 (7,350)	67.9 (62.2)
Europe	3,722 (4,390)	2.7 (3.1)	1,597 (2,071)	17.5 (17.5)
North America	1,742 (2,706)	1.3 (1.9)	992 (1,902)	10.9 (16.1)
Africa	1,136 (1,203)	0.8 (0.8)	58 (69)	0.6 (0.6)
Middle East	1,018 (981)	0.7 (0.7)	35 (36)	0.4 (0.3)
Latin America	886 (1,035)	0.6 (0.7)	94 (159)	1.0 (1.3)
Oceania	408 (504)	0.3 (0.4)	152 (237)	1.7 (2.0)

European Students in Japan

As shown above, there are a total of 3,722 long term students from Europe undertaking some form of study here in Japan. The countries with the most numerous students are as follows (2010 in brackets): French: 530 (705); German: 393 (554); UK: 364 (452); Sweden: 193 (212).

Research Fields and Prominent Institutions

Mostly, foreign students in Japan tend to study the social sciences (40.4%), the humanities (20.2%), engineering (16.9%) and other fields.

By university, Waseda University has accepted the largest number of foreign students at 3,393, followed by Nihon Keizai University 3,378, and the University of Tokyo at 2,877.

The full report is available from JASSO:

JASSO, (2011), [平成23年度 外国人留学生在籍状況調査結果](#), (Japanese)

JASSO, (2011), [International Students in Japan 2011](#), (English)

Danish Presidency of the European Union

On 1 January, the Presidency of the European Council of Ministers passed to Denmark from Poland. The European Council, which comprises all 27 Member States and gives the political direction and priorities to the European Union.

Denmark, which is widely seen as an “[innovation leader](#)” within Europe, will give priority to the following general areas:

- A Dynamic Europe
- A Green Europe -
- A Safe Europe

Encouragingly, there is a section on the Presidency homepage specifically looking at [research and development](#).



The first such priority will be discussions on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ([EIT](#)), regarding regulatory changes and its links with the new Horizon 2020 research programme.

The second priority is the Horizon 2020 programme itself. This will be a gigantic research programmes costing 80bn between 2014 and 2020. During the duration of the Danish Presidency, Denmark hopes to achieve agreement between Member States on the overall objective and structure of the programme.

The Presidency of the European Council of Ministers with 27 Member States is held on a rotating basis by the Member States for a six-month period.

Further Information: <http://eu2012.dk>

In Focus

Science and Technology Budget for 2012-13

In December, the Japanese government published the budget for the next fiscal year, running from 1 April to 31 March.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the budget for fiscal year 2012 will be 90.0 trillion yen (around €900bn), a decrease of 2 trillion on last year. As was given much press coverage, only 47% of the budget is from taxation, with 49% financed through governmental bonds.

Of the total expenditure of 90 trillion yen, national debt service totals 21.9 trillion yen as of 2012 (€220bn), or 24% of all expenditures. Social security accounts for 29% of expenditure, and 18.4% allocated to local governments, 6% (5.4trillion); 6% to education and science; 5.2% to national defence; 5.1% to public works, and 11.9% to other expenditures.

For the overall budget for education and science, the educational component decreases overall by -1.9% to €54bn. Science decreases by -3.1% to €13bn. However, if revitalisation expenses are included then overall the science budget increases by 1.8% (See [MOF 2012](#)).

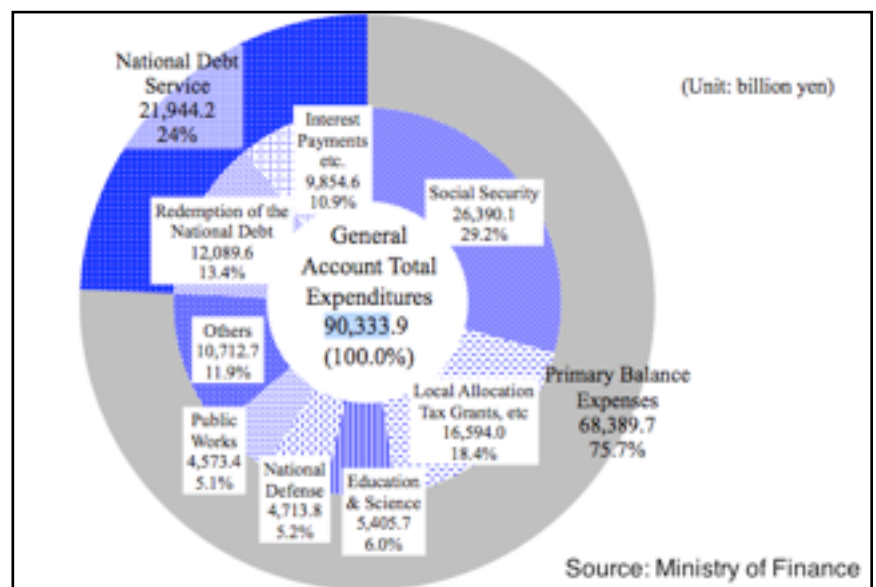
Action Plan Priorities: Revival and Regeneration following the Disaster

The [Action Plan](#), which is used to structure budgetary requests from individual ministries for science and technology was strongly influenced by the earthquake and other events of March last year.

The basic principles for budget development published in July 2011 placed importance on four main priorities for the budget.

These priorities were:

- Revitalisation & Regeneration towards increased Safety
- Green Innovation
- Life Innovation
- Basic Research & Human Resources



Most Ministry S&T budgets Down; Big increase for MoE

Overall, the initial budget for science and technology increases on last year, rising from €36.7bn in 2011 to €36.9bn for 2012. There is a high level of stability in the main initial budget for science and technology, irrespective of the supplementary budget (see [CSTP](#)).

However, for most ministries (eight out of 15) there is a reduction in their overall budget, with the largest such losers being the Ministry of Justice (-17%) and the Cabinet Office (-11.2%). The ministry which sees the biggest increase is the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), which rises by 18% on last year, to €463m. Many of the new schemes for this ministry address energy and the environment related topics (see [MOE](#)).

The largest player is of course the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), which accounts for €25bn (67.7% of all governmental expenditure on science and technology), and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, (€5bn; 14.7% of the total). The budget for MEXT increases by 1.7% on last year, whilst that for METI declines by 5.9%(see [CSTP](#)).

As with last year, given the importance of MEXT for supporting science, technology and research in Japan, this review will focus solely on the new budgetary commitments as presented in the budgetary outline published in December. A link can be found further below.

Highlights of MEXT's Budget for 2012

For MEXT, the overall budget increases by 1.7% to 5.6 trillion yen (€56b). Of this, €11.5bn is given over to the universities in the form of institutional funding. The budget specifically for science rises by 1.0% to €18bn. This is the second year in a row for a consecutive increase in this part of the budget.

There are a number of new initiatives for MEXT, including efforts related to revitalisation, there are also new commitments and an expansion of funding towards internationalisation of human resources. There is little that is new specifically in the science funding area, but there is an expansion in funding for a number of key schemes.

Launching International Careers ...

Last year, the budgetary aspects regarding human resources were emphasising career stability through expansion of tenure track programmes, postdoctoral fellowships, and research administrator schemes.

This year, many of these projects continue to receive high priority, but there is a clearer move to emphasising international aspects of career development than in previous years. A major highlight this year therefore is a raft of new initiatives or funding increases for globalising human resources. There are four main funding headlines regarding early stage, university level, researcher level, and human resources in strategic research fields.

At the early stages the overall budget is €4m, with an expansion of overseas scholarship funds for high school students (increasing levels of support from 50 students to 300), and expanding fellowships to support foreign students studying Japanese (from 2 to 115 students).

There are a range of schemes to support the globalisation of the university system. Overall, the headline budget increases quite substantially by €208m to €644. The budgetary allocations concern the [leading graduate schools](#) programme (increasing by €7.7m to

€11.6m), a new scheme for the support of distinguished graduate schools (€80m), another new scheme to promote global human resources (5€0m), and an expansion in funding to support [university internationalisation](#) initiatives (with ten new projects to be funded). There will also be increases to support long term and short term overseas visits for Japanese students (long term numbers will increase from 100 to 200; short term numbers will increase from 760 to 2,280).

For researchers, there will be increased funding for overseas dispatch, increased funding for the postdoctoral fellowship for research abroad (from 486 researchers per year to 501); further expansion of tenure track programmes with an increase in the number of those funded rising from 135 to 165. Increased funding for the Postdoctoral Fellowship for Young Scientists scheme from 1,385 to 1,420 researchers; and increased funding to the programme supporting career development for postdoctoral researchers.

For those concerned with strategic research fields (environment, energy, health, welfare, health, creative industry etc.), there will be training programmes and accreditation activities. This budget increases by €4m to €5m.

The Science budget ...

Under this headline there are new schemes concerning nuclear power and related aspects with four new programmes budgeted at nearly €200m. Such programmes include strengthening of monitoring systems in Fukushima and throughout the country (€39m), protection of radiation exposure for children (€10m), human resource and research activities related to atomic energy (€107m). All of this funding is derived from the special fund for revitalisation.

There is also a batch of programmes related to the nexus between humankind and the frontier. This includes a substantial increase in funding towards research on underwater earthquakes and tsunami prediction (rising by €177m to €190m); advanced space technologies such as those that will help towards supporting green innovation initiatives, wasteland reclamation, and a Tohoku marine science research hub.

Amongst those projects that will see reduced expenditure are the Monju reactor (-€102m), and some of the projects regarding space technologies (Hayabusa 2 / ASTRO-H) (-€32m).

Green innovation and life innovation are the priority features of Japan's [economic growth strategy](#) published in 2010. These areas see a mix of new schemes linked to the revitalisation budget, and budget expansions in other areas. Of these, they are linking many schemes with the revitalisation imperative, with programmes for next generation energy research and development in the Tohoku region (new programme: €20m); a Tohoku medical megabank plan (new programme €56m). Other programmes see slight increases or the maintenance of existing funding. A project towards the realisation of iPS stem cells sees a €7m increase to €45m; the project on next generation cancer research retains its current levels of funding (€36m).

Elsewhere, the budget for the [WPI centres](#) will increase by €8m; and [Grants-in-Aid](#) (Kaken-hi), the main bottom-up source of funding for academic research, will increase by €103m to €2.3b. Other scientific programmes that will also receive increased funding are the large scale quantum bit facilities such as SPring-8, SACLA or J-Parc. The funding here will increase by €8m to €320m. The new programme on the science of science policy will see a budgetary increase of €3m.

Funding towards the support for innovative project development that acts as a bridge between universities, industries and government will also get increased support rising by €5m

to €198m. Likewise there will be increased funding for regional innovation activities, to the tune of €114m.

Further Information:

CSTP, (2011), [科学技術関係予算の推移](#)

CSTP, (2011), [平成24年度 科学技術重要施策アクションプラン 概要](#)

MEXT, (2011), [平成24年度文部科学関係予算案について](#)

MOF, (2011), [Highlights of the Budget for FY2012](#)

List of Events in Japan

Date	Event	Location
24 – 27 January, 2012	Bioinformatics week in Odaiba 2011 (BiWO2011)	Tokyo
27 – 28 January, 2012	The 4th symposium for the next priority research on Immunological Self-Recognition and its Disorders-	Kyoto
15 – 17 February, 2012	nano tech 2012	Tokyo
15 – 17 February, 2012	Inter Aqua 2012	Tokyo
15 – 17 February, 2012	ASTECC 2012	Tokyo
15 – 17 February, 2012	Convertech JAPAN 2012	Tokyo
15 – 17 February, 2012	neo functional material 2012	Tokyo
15 – 17 February, 2012	Printable Electronics 2012	Tokyo
16 February, 2012	Ei-ichi Negishi Nobel Prize Forum – Pd-Catalyzed Cross-coupling and Zr-Catalyzed Asymmetric Carboalumination of Alkenes (ZACA reaction)	Fukuoka
16 – 17 February, 2012	Second International Conference on Real-time Tumor-tracking Radiation Therapy with 4D Molecular Imaging Technique	Sapporo
17 – 19 February, 2012	Japan Endovascular Treatment Conference (JET)2012	Tokyo
19 – 21 February, 2012	Japan-Australia Symposium on Plant Sciences for Agriculture	Sapporo
20 – 22 February, 2012	INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON Particles and Radiation from Cosmic Accelerators CA2012	Chiba
23 February, 2012	CiRA International Symposium 2012	Kyoto

Date	Event	Location
1 – 2 March, 2012	2nd AICS International Symposium	Kobe
1 – 2 March, 2012	3rd International Symposium on SPM Standardization(SPM2012)	Tsukuba
4 – 8 March, 2012	4th International Symposium on Advanced Plasma Science and its Applications for Nitrides and Nanomaterials(ISPlasma 2012)	Nagoya
6 – 8 March, 2012	9th International Conference on Urban Earthquake Engineering & 4th Asia Conference on Earthquake Engineering	Tokyo
14 March, 2012	International Symposium on Development of Core Technologies for Green Nanoelectronics	Tokyo
18 – 20 March, 2012	KMI Mini-Workshop on "Conformality in Strong Coupling Gauge Theories at LHC and Lattice"(SCGT12Mini)	Nagoya
21 – 22 March, 2012	International Symposium on Innovative Nanobiodevices(ISIN2012)	Nagoya
26 – 28 March, 2012	CDB Symposium 2012"Quantitative Developmental Biology"	Kobe
28 – 30 March, 2012	The 37th International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP)	Kyoto
15 – 18 April, 2012	The 3rd Asian Materials Data Symposium (AMDS2012)	Okinawa
15 – 18 April, 2012	The 13th World Conference on Investment Casting(WCIC)	Kyoto
25 – 27 April, 2012	Laser Display Conference(LDC2012)	Yokohama
14 – 18 May, 2012	International Cryogenic Engineering Conference 24-International Cryogenic Materials Conference 2012(ICEC 24 – ICMC 2012)	Fukuoka
21 – 24 May, 2012	6th International Symposium on Edible Alliaceae	Fukuoka
26 – 30 August, 2012	14th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF Histochemistry and Cytochemistry	Kyoto

Date	Event	Location
9 – 12 September, 2012	16th Congress of International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism	Sapporo
23 – 28 September, 2012	The 17th International Conference on Molecular Beam Epitaxy(MBE2012)	Nara
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