

2007



**Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,
Science and Technology**



C O N T E N T S

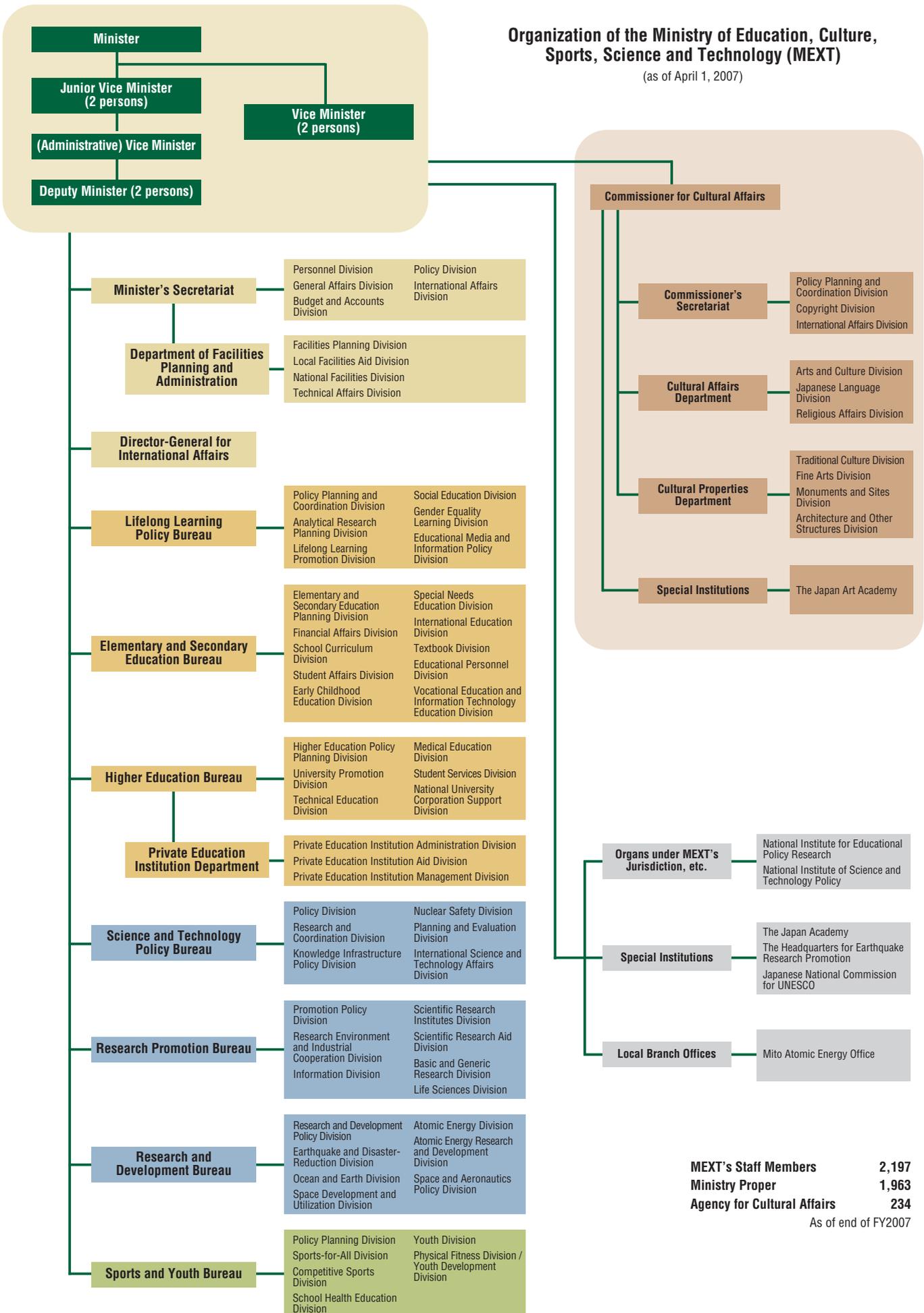
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Chronology of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

1871	Ministry of Education established
1872	Promulgation of the school system
1947	The Fundamental Law of Education, School Education Law enacted
1949	Scientific Technical Administration Committee established
1950	Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties enacted, and Protection of Cultural Properties Committee established (external bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
1956	Science and Technology Agency established (external bureau of the Prime Minister's Office)
1959	Council for Science and Technology Policy established
1961	Sports Promotion Law enacted
1964	Tokyo Olympics held
1968	Agency for Cultural Affairs established (merging of the Protection of Cultural Properties Committee and the Ministry of Education Cultural Affairs Bureau)
1972	Sapporo Olympics held
1984	National Council on Education Reform established (to 1987)
1995	Basic Law for Science and Technology enacted
1996	Basic Plan for Science and Technology formulated (first stage) (to FY2000)
1998	Nagano Olympics held
2000	Basic Plan for the Promotion of Sports formulated (to FY2010)
2001	MEXT established (merging of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture and the Science and Technology Agency) Basic Plan for the Science and Technology formulated (second stage) (to FY2005)
2002	Basic Plan for Science and Technology formulated (second stage) (to FY2005) Five-day week system implemented for all schools
2006	Basic Plan for Science and Technology formulated (third stage) (to FY2010) Revision of the Basic Act on Education enacted

Organization of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

(as of April 1, 2007)



MEXT's Staff Members **2,197**
Ministry Proper **1,963**
Agency for Cultural Affairs **234**

As of end of FY2007

From Children to Adults
Aiming to become a society where
anyone can learn

Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau

Policy Planning and Coordination
Division

Analytical Research Planning Division

Lifelong Learning Promotion Division

Social Education Division

Gender Equality Learning Division

Educational Media and Information
Policy Division

Promotion of Educational Reform

The revised Basic Act on Education was promulgated and enacted on December 22, 2006. In order for all individuals to realize rich lives and for Japan to achieve further development and contribute to the peace and development of the international community, the revised Basic Act on Education established the basis of educational objectives, principles, and implementation which we all hope for today, as well as clarified the responsibilities of the country and local governments, and determined the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education, etc., while valuing the universal principles of the original Basic Act on Education.

Under the principles indicated in the revised Basic Act on Education, it takes the necessary steps to revise relevant laws and regulations and promptly formulate the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education.



Enactment of the Basic Act on Education at an Upper House plenary session on December 15, 2006 (Provided by: Secretariat of the House of Councillors)

Improving Educational Functions of Local Communities

In order to revitalize educational functions, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) promotes volunteer activities, sports and cultural activities which are joined by different generations. MEXT also promotes school support activities performed by local people. Through these intergenerational activities MEXT plans to foster a sense of independence, creativity, and social skills among children.

Traditional public facilities are now playing new roles. For example, citizen's public halls provide their own spaces for solving community issues. Libraries engage in business support. Museums send curators to help school study.



Reading sessions for children by local people ("Toshokan Friends Imari" Imari city, Saga Prefecture)

Implementing After - School Plan for Children

Starting in FY2007, MEXT and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare will collaborate to provide for children after school (After - School Plan for Children) in all elementary school zones throughout the nation. This means determining safe locations for children's after school and weekend activities in available classrooms, and promoting hands-on and regional exchange activities that are made possible with the participation of various people.



Creativity using empty boxes ("Kodomo Skip" Toshima Ward, Tokyo)

MEXT plans and proposes basic policies, surveys education in Japan and in foreign countries, including carrying out policies on IT to promote educational reform. Aiming to accomplish a lifelong learning society, we promote social education, gender equality, and facilitate home education. In addition we also enhance function of facilities at the University of the Air, and promote education at special training colleges and all types of schools.

Improving Educational Functions at Home

In order to support home education as a starting point for all education, MEXT is providing detailed support to all parents by such efforts as creating and distributing the Home Education Handbook and providing nationwide lectures on child-raising applicable to different life-stages. MEXT also commenced a campaign from FY 2006 called "Keep Bedtime Early, Get Up Early, Take Breakfast" across Japan in cooperation with civil groups so that families, schools, and communities could better cooperate in fostering children's basic lifestyles and fitness.



"Keep Bedtime Early, Get Up Early, Take Breakfast" Symbol for the national movement

Support for Challenge Again in the Field of Education

In order to build a society where people can challenge again no matter how many times they fail, and can be provided with various opportunities, in December 2006, the government formulated the Comprehensive "Challenge Again" Support Plan. As a part of this, MEXT is addressing support for "Challenge Again" in the field of education, such as supporting those who choose to "return for further education" in universities and specialized training colleges, and young people, women, and senior citizens aspiring for new challenges.



People play an important role in the community with skills attained through career experience and lifelong learning "Classes given by experts in community" ("Machi no Sensei" Minato Ward, Yokohama City)

Providing Lifelong Learning Opportunities

Our goal is to accomplish a lifelong learning society in which any citizen can have an opportunity to study at any time, in any place as they like, where their results will be properly evaluated. We enhance function of facilities at The University of the Air, in which people can study university subjects at home through television and radio. We also promote a policy for specialized training colleges that provide practical vocational education, in addition, implementing Lower Secondary School and Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination for those who did not graduate from lower secondary school or upper secondary schools. Furthermore, we are promoting the National Lifelong Learning Festivals which are popularly called Manabipia, and held in Okayama Prefecture in 2007 as an opportunity to disseminate practices of lifelong learning and to encourage people to participate in lifelong learning.

Finally, we support providing an opportunity to exchange experiences of learning and communication with IT.



Manabipia Ibaraki 2006

Planning Enhancements from Pre-School Education through Elementary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary School

Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau

Elementary and Secondary Education Planning Division

Financial Affairs Division

School Curriculum Division

Student Affairs Division

Early Childhood Education Division

Special Needs Education Division

International Education Division

Textbook Division

Educational Personnel Division

Vocational Education and Information Technology Education Division

Improvement of Academic Abilities

MEXT determines the Courses of Study as broad standards for all schools, from kindergarten through upper secondary schools, to organize their programs in order to ensure a fixed standard of education throughout the country.

The current Courses of Study aim to develop, in addition to knowledge and skills, the academic ability of students to learn and think for themselves, and a zest for living through rich humanity and health and strength.

Although the latest international assessments of academic ability show that Japan ranks high internationally, there remain issues of lower reading comprehension ability, inadequate learning motivation and study habits. Therefore MEXT is taking such steps as (1) revising its overall Course of Study at the Central Council for Education, (2) conducting the National Assessment of Academic Ability, and (3) creating an action plan for improving academic abilities.

Improvement of Educational Standards

In order to improve educational standards, it is essential to examine educational outcomes and continuously make improvements, based on the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Action) cycle. For this, MEXT carries out school evaluations, and the National Assessment of Academic Ability.

With regard to school evaluations, we urge effective self-evaluations by schools and external evaluations by guardians, and consider trial third-party evaluations of schools by conducting the trial evaluation.

The National Assessment of Academic Ability is conducted on all children of sixth year of elementary school and third year of

lower secondary school this year. MEXT, boards of education and schools will improve on teaching and educational policies by the results.



Improvement of the Quality of Teachers

The success or failure of school education depends greatly on the quality of teachers, and improvement of their quality is an extremely important policy.

For that reason, MEXT is improving the university teacher training curriculums, encouraging emphasis on personnel in teacher hiring by all prefectural boards of education, etc., and supports training that depends on the amount of teaching experiences, etc., and training by experience of activity in society.

It is also encouraging efforts in all prefectural boards of education, etc., to improve and enhance the teacher evaluation

system to provide accurate evaluations of the capability and results of each individual teacher, and instructing that there must be firm guidance from the personnel management system to teachers with insufficient teaching ability to prevent teachers lacking in leadership skills from engaging in education.

Furthermore, following the Central Education Council's reports from July last year and March this year, necessary revisions are currently underway to introduce a renewal system for teacher licenses, and firm guidance from the personnel management for teachers with insufficient teaching skills.

MEXT aims to develop an education that gives children a zest for living such as robustness, richness in mind and the ability to learn and think for themselves.

For example, in order to improve comprehensive learning abilities, MEXT is promoting small-group teaching and proficiency-dependent teaching. In order to foster richness in mind, it is also promoting enhancement of moral education and experiential activities.

Furthermore, it is working to enhance and improve the teacher training and licensing system in order to secure excellent people to be teachers, who hold the key to school education results.

Cultivating Richness in minds, Responding to Problem Behavior and Non-attendance at School Absences, Promoting Career Education

● Cultivating richness in mind

In order to foster rich humanity and socialization in young students, MEXT is promoting a variety of measures such as enhancing moral education by such steps as distributing “Kokoro no Note” (notebooks for moral education) to all elementary and lower secondary students, enhancing a variety of experiential activities depending on the level of growth, and promoting reading activities such as reading aloud the morning reading.

● Responding to problem behavior and non-attendance at school

In order to solve problem behavior and non-attendance at

school in young students MEXT is making comprehensive efforts with all kinds of measures including (1) enhancing emotional education and achieving easy-to-understand lessons and enjoyable schools, (2) improving the quality of teachers, and (3) enhancing the education counseling system.

● Promoting career education

Career education is important in educating children in their views of career and work and in cultivating the ability to proactively select and decide career paths. For that purpose, MEXT is promoting systematic career education applicable to each school stage through experience in the workplace and so on.

Promotion of Pre-School Education

Early childhood is a crucial period in that it builds the base for life-long character formation. Thus, it is important that every infant is provided with quality pre-school education. MEXT promotes (1) enhancing education content for kindergartens, etc., (2) alleviating the economic burden for guardians, and (3) further support for

families and communities during pre-school education. Moreover, a system called “Center for early childhood education and care” that provides unified education and childcare was established and an Action Plan for Pre-School Education Promotion was formulated in FY2006. We will continue to improve and further promote such policies.

Promotion of Special Needs Education

In order to encourage the independence and social participation of children with disabilities, MEXT is promoting special needs education applicable to their individual educational needs. In April 2007, schools for the blind, for the deaf, and for the Intellectually Disabled, the Physically Disabled and the Health Impaired were

reaffirmed as “Schools for Special Needs Education” in response to children’s multiple disabilities. It was also legally clarified that in all kindergartens, elementary, lower and upper secondary schools, appropriate education is to be provided for children with disabilities, including those with developmental disabilities.

Promoting International Education

It is necessary to develop people who can act independently with a global point of view in society that is becoming more international. MEXT is working comprehensively on such measures as (1) enhancing education to deepen international understanding

and teach foreign languages, (2) promoting international exchange, (3) enhancing education of Japanese children overseas, and (4) enhancing education for returning Japanese children from overseas and foreign children in Japan.

Planning promotion of higher education focusing on universities and graduate schools

Higher Education Bureau

Higher Education Policy Planning
Division

University Promotion Division

Technical Education Division

Medical Education Division

Student Services Division

National University Corporation Support
Division

Private Education Institution Department

Private Education Institution
Administration Division

Private Education Institution Aid Division

Private Education Institution
Management Division

The Future of Higher Education in Japan

The report of the Central Council for Education, "The Future of Higher Education in Japan" came out January 28, 2005. The report pointed out (1) the direction of quantitative changes in higher education, (2) the clarification of the variety of functions and individual characters and characteristics of higher education, (3) importance of guaranteeing the quality of higher

education, (4) what higher educational institutions should be, and (5) the role of society that aims to develop higher education.

In addition, it listed 12 recommendations of measures that must be taken to achieve the future form.

Based on this report, MEXT will actively promote higher education reform.

Promoting Universities and Graduate Schools

● Quality Assurance of Universities

As a result of giving a great deal of flexibility to the university chartering system in April 2003, establishment and reorganization of universities have been greatly accelerated. From the perspective of protecting students and maintaining international viability of degrees, it is important to assure the quality of educational and research activities of universities. Therefore, by not only accurately operating the university chartering system, but also implementing a certified evaluation system (introduced in April 2004) under which all national, public and private universities are required to be evaluated on a regular basis by a certified evaluating institution, MEXT is further enhancing its quality assurance system, through-out before and after the establishment of a university.

● Three Years after the Incorporation of National Universities

Three years after the Incorporation of National Universities in April 2004, each national university corporation utilizes the advantages of being incorporated. Various efforts have been addressed such as establishment of a management structure, revitalization of education research, enhancement of student support, cooperation with the industrial sector, promotion of contribution to the local region, etc.

In addition, the University of Toyama, Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University, and Takaoka National College were integrated and reorganized in October 2005, with the new university corporation renamed as the University of Toyama. Osaka University and the Osaka University of Foreign Studies are scheduled to be integrated in October 2007. Henceforth, MEXT aims to continue the expansion of development and revitalization

of Japan's national universities by coordinating closely with each institution, for they play a central role in both higher education and academic research.

● Support for the Education Reform of National, Public and Private Universities

MEXT supports a variety of efforts to reform universities in a competitive environment through national, public and private universities, with the objective of invigorating higher education and encouraging excellent education and research activities which utilize each university's individuality and particular characteristics.

In addition, MEXT broadly provides information to society, on excellent efforts for the unique university education support program and the current university needs support program by opening a web site, holding forums and through the e-mail magazine, "University Reform GP Navi -Good Practice-."

● Professional Graduate Schools

Professional graduate schools were established in response to the advancement of science and technology, and to the globalization of society, economy, and culture. They aim to provide new graduate programs (professional degrees) that specialize in fostering high-level professionals to take leadership roles in all fields of social economy as well as active international roles. As of April 2007, 74 departments of graduate law schools which are institutionalized as the core of the new system to nurture legal professionals and 149 schools in such fields as business, MOT (Management of Technology) public policies, and public hygiene have been established.

MEXT is pursuing a variety of policies to promote higher education.

While MEXT plans and proposes basic policies for higher education, it grants permission for the establishment of universities, junior colleges, and colleges of technology, and assures the quality of education through evaluations. It also supports university education reform, fosters the development of high-level professionals, and at the same time performs administration for selection of students to enter schools, student exchange, and invigoration of incorporated national universities.

In addition, it promotes private schools through permission to establish school corporations, administrative guidance and advice, and subsidization of private schools.

Scholarship Loan Programs

Scholarship loan programs are important educational measures to the goals of equal opportunity for education and human resource development, and they are broadly implemented by the independent administrative organization, Japan Student Services Organization, and local governments, incorporated non-profit organizations and schools, etc.

The Japan Student Services Organization grants scholarships to exemplary students, who have difficulty in getting education because of financial reasons, and provides interest-free loans and long-term low interest-bearing loans.

As for the budget for FY2007, the expenses for the whole program totaled 850.3 billion yen, and scholarships are being granted to 1,143,000 students.



Promotion of Private Schools

Private schools have implemented activities of rich individuality following the spirits of their founders, and have played an important role in both the quality and quantity of school education in Japan.

MEXT places the promotion of private schools as an important policy issue, and supports them through such promotion measures as subsidies for mainly current expenditures, loan projects by the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan, and special tax treatment and support for improving the management of school corporations.

In the future as well, MEXT will work to promote a variety of measures supporting private schools, and help to raise the evaluation and level of trust in society for private schools.



Promotion of Student Exchanges

Based on the 1983 plan to accept 100,000 foreign students, MEXT is working to enhance its measures. As a result, in May 2006, the number of exchange students studying in Japanese universities and other schools reached approximately 118,000 students.

Meanwhile, the number of Japanese students studying abroad has increased, and according to statistics issued by

foreign countries, approximately 75,000 Japanese students were studying in 33 major countries in 2003.

MEXT continues to work to promote student exchange, and is planning to enhance the acceptance of the Japanese Government Scholarship foreign students, to support foreign students with fellowships for privately-financed foreign students, and at the same time support Japanese students studying overseas.

Creating a System to Promote Science and Technology

Science and Technology Policy Bureau

- Policy Division
- Research and Coordination Division
- Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division
- Nuclear Safety Division
- Planning and Evaluation Division
- International Science and Technology Affairs Division

Plan and Proposal for Basic Policies Regarding Science and Technology

Based on the newly formulated government 5-year Third Basic Plan for Science and Technology (FY2006 to FY2010), MEXT is comprehensively promoting science and technology. In addition, with the objective of researching and discussing important aspects of promoting science and technology, the council for science and technology was established, and is examining a broad range of issues in FY2007 such as promotion policies for research and development based on the Third Basic Plan for Science and Technology, and advancements in academic

research through national, public and private universities.

Furthermore, it is conducting such activities as creating the annual report on the promotion of science and technology (White Paper on Science and Technology), surveying and analyzing trends in science and technology in Japan and overseas, building a research and development evaluation system, and managing special coordination funds for promoting science and technology to adjust overall promotion of important items based on policies of the Council for Science and Technology Policy.

Developing Human Resources in Science and Technology and Strategically Promoting International Activities

Concerning entering an age of declining population and aiming to become an advanced science and technology oriented nation, it is an extremely important issue for our country to foster and secure people who can become fundamental human resources in science and technology in the next generation. For this purpose, MEXT is making consistent efforts from students to lead researchers and engineers to obtain the quality and quantity of people needed by such efforts as enhancing science, technology and mathematics education at the school level, developing environments where a variety of people such as young, female and foreign researchers can exercise their abilities, and by promoting a professional engineer system.

In order to fulfill its responsibilities as a member of the international community and to further promote sciences and technologies, MEXT promotes a broad range of activities based on multilateral frameworks such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) or bilateral frameworks such as agreements on science and technology cooperation with 45 countries. In addition, MEXT promotes researcher exchanges, joint international research projects and a variety of joint international projects.



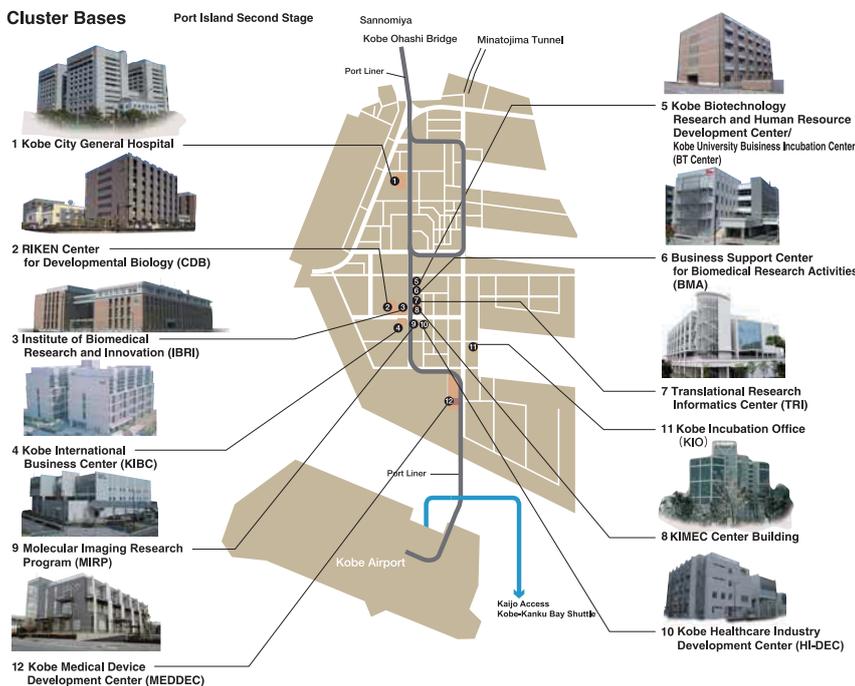
"Try Science (Rika Shite Miyou)! Be Ambitious, Girls of Lower Secondary Schools" Delivered course conducted by Hokkaido University. (Promoting science-related course options to girls in upper and lower secondary schools, FY2006.)

MEXT is planning and designing the basic policies to promote science and technology. It intends to develop human resources in science and technology from students to lead of researchers and engineers, and strategically promotes international exchange, and advances science and technology in local communities. In addition, it is engaged in ensuring the safety of nuclear energy.

Promoting Science and Technology in Regional Areas

The promotion of science and technology in local communities contributes to the foundation for regional innovation systems. Moreover, it not only elevates and diversifies our science and technology but also strengthens the competitiveness of

innovation systems. MEXT is implementing projects for each aim and each phase of research and development. For example, the Knowledge Cluster Initiative is done for the creation of innovative clusters with international competitiveness.



Example: Formation of the Kobe Translational Research Cluster
 In Kobe, the "Kobe Medical Industry Development Project", whose purpose is formation of the cluster of biomedical industry of the 21st century, is promoted. Through the Knowledge Cluster Initiatives, cutting-edge clinical research and technological development are carried out in industry-academia-government collaboration. By establishing the leading biomedical system, the quality of medical services will be improved, and the biomedical cluster will be built up.

Ensuring Safety and Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy

The major principle of nuclear energy research, development and use is that it is limited to peaceful purposes, and that every effort will be made to ensure safety. For that purpose, strict regulations and controls are implemented as well as nuclear energy safety regulations that strengthen response systems for emergencies, and countermeasures for nuclear disasters and

safeguards under international agreements are implemented, based on the Law Concerning Prevention of Radiation Sickness Caused by Radioactive Isotopes, the Law for the Regulation of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors, and the Special Measures Law on Nuclear Disaster.

Promoting Basic Research that Supports Researchers and Contributes to Society

Research Promotion Bureau

Promotion Policy Division

Research Environment and Industrial Cooperation Division

Information Division

Scientific Research Institutes Division

Scientific Research Aid Division

Basic and Generic Research Division

Life Sciences Division

Promotion of Basic Research

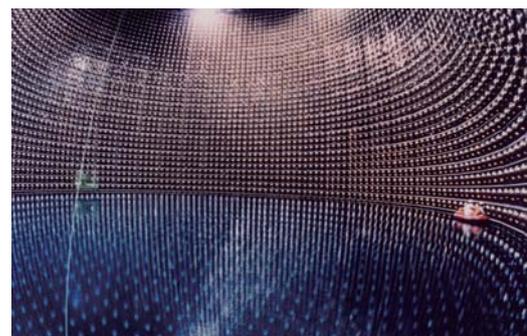
It is crucial to promote basic research in a broad range of fields in order to contribute to the intellectual assets of humanity by creating research results that are at the highest level in the world from Japan, as well as to accumulate the knowledge that leads to the development of our future and promote technical innovation.

For that purpose, researchers perform unique and advanced basic research based on their own creative ideas at universities and inter-university research institutes, etc. in such areas as neutrino research giving clues to the progress of the universe, and accelerator scientific research aimed at discovering the ultimate structure of matter. In addition, MEXT is working to expand competitive funds such as Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research that improve a variety of curiosity-driven research and basic expenses that support daily academic research activities.

Furthermore, MEXT promotes basic research at independent administrative institutes for research and development such as the RIKEN, Institute of Physical and Chemical Research, that aim for the future applications in research fields according to the objective of establishment of each institute.



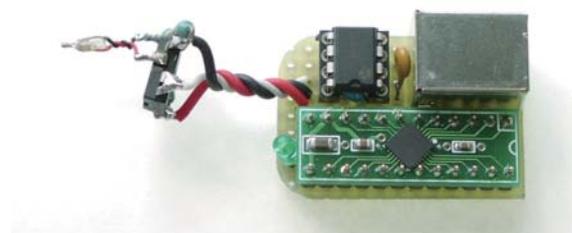
Aerial photograph of the large-scale synchrotron radiation facility (SPRING-8)
(Provided by: High Intensity Scientific Research Center)



Super-Kamioka Neutrino Detection Experiment
(Provided by: Kamioka Observatory, Institute for Cosmic Ray Research of the University of Tokyo)

Promotion of Cooperation between the Private Sector, Universities and Government Agencies

Promotion of cooperation between the private sector, universities and government agencies is essential to invigorate the Japanese economy and society with the creation of new technologies and new industries, and to revitalize university education and research. For that reason, at the same time MEXT supports the expenses of obtaining patents for the results of university research, the setup of university intellectual property departments, and strengthening intellectual property strategies, it actively promotes policies to support the formation by universities of joint research and ventures with corporations, the training and acquisition of specialists who can manage intellectual property and technologies, and the assignment of specialists (who act as coordinators on cooperation between the private sector, universities and government agencies) for cooperation between the private sector, universities and government agencies.



Example of the successful results of joint research conducted by universities and corporations:
Quick hydrogen gas sensor
(Provided by: Niigata University)

MEXT advances policies to promote scientific research based on researchers' creative ideas and basic research linked to future applications.

At the same time it promotes scientific research through the development of the research institute facilities and provision of research aid, it promotes research in important fields such as life sciences, information technology, nano technology and materials, and the utilization of quantum beam.

In addition, it promotes cooperation between the private sector, universities and government agencies, strengthens intellectual property strategies, and develops research bases such as research equipment.

Promotion of Research and Development in Important Fields

Life sciences are expected to bring great leaps in innovative medical development and contribute to solving environmental and food problems. MEXT is also actively promoting basic and advanced research and development to achieve new medicines and treatments, and to discover the causes of a variety of illnesses such as cancer and infectious diseases. It addresses translational research that connects between basic research and actual activities at the clinical fields. In addition, it is formulating and administering regulations and guidance to appropriately respond to the issues of bioethics and safety precautions in the life sciences field.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an increasingly important tool for efficient and reliable activities in a wide range of areas such as business and industrial activities, research and education. ICT projects of MEXT involve the Next-generation Supercomputer Project, one of the National Critical Technologies, research and development of key technologies in cooperation among industries, academia and government, and capacity building of ICT engineers who will play an important role in advanced software development and cyber security.

In nanotechnology, atoms and molecules are manipulated at the scale of nanometers (one billionth of a meter) to create absolutely new functions in materials. MEXT strategically promotes basic and advanced research and development as well as research and development with the prospect of application in nanotechnology and materials. In addition, it also promotes an X-ray free electron laser (XFEL) facility which provides us with basic technologies.

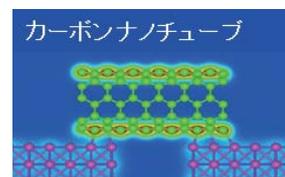
MEXT promotes quantum beam technology that generates, controls and utilizes high intensity and high grade electromagnetic waves, neutron rays, electron rays and ion beams using accelerators, etc. For example, Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC) is expected to contribute to a broad range of fields from basic research to industrial applications in particle science, material science and life sciences to industrial applications.



Successful resolution of the protein structure in SARS viruses
(MEXT Protein 3000 Project)
(Provided by: RIKEN)



Simulation of body organs
(Provided by: RIKEN)



Simulation of complex system
electronic conductivity
(Provided by: Institute for
Molecular Science)

Simulation images made possible by the next-generation Supercomputer Project

Enhancing and Equipping the Research and Development Bases

In order to support advanced and original research and development activities, it is important to promote equipment research bases that are at the highest level in the world. That is why MEXT promotes the use of Japan's most advanced large scale research facilities like the large synchrotron radiation facility (SPring-8) by a broad range of researchers from the

private sector, universities and government agencies, and improvement of its management systems, supports development of the world's first and most advanced measurement analysis technology and instruments, as well as enhances science and technology information communications and comprehensive distribution systems.

Conducting large-scale research and development in such fields as space, the ocean, nuclear power and disasters like earthquakes

Research and Development Bureau

Research and Development Policy Division

Earthquake and Disaster-Reduction Research Division

Ocean and Earth Division

Space Development and Utilization Division

Atomic Energy Division

Atomic Energy Research and Development Division

Space and Aeronautics Policy Division

Promoting Research and Development in Aerospace

Space development and utilization improves the quality of citizen's lives and encourages industry through applications such as telecommunications, broadcasting, positioning, weather forecasting and earth observation, and brings new knowledge through space science research. It thus plays an important role that supports the basis for Japan's existence while providing dreams to children.

Aviation research and development is very important to strengthen the competitiveness of Japan's aircraft industry in the international market.

Based on past problems, Japan has taken measures to establish a more reliable rocket launching system than the global standard. Rocket launches of the H-IIA Launch Vehicle and M-V Launch Vehicle in recent years have been successful nine times in a row, from the launch of H-IIA Launch Vehicle Number 7 in February 2005 to the end of February 2007. Furthermore, MEXT prioritizes the measures listed below, and will actively promote research and development.

- It promotes efforts to establish space transport system technologies as one of key technology of national importance.
- It promotes programs to improve the reliability of rockets and satellites resulting in strengthening the basis for space development.

- It promotes building a satellite observation system in response to the "Global Earth Observation System of Systems 10-Year Implementation Plan."
- It steadily promotes joint projects between industry and government, like the quasi-zenith satellites system program, and development of the GX Launch Vehicle.
- It comprehensively promotes utilization of space environment through the International Space Station and the other infrastructure.
- It promotes research and development of aeronautical science technology to meet the society's needs, such as the development of Japan-manufactured passenger aircraft.
- It promotes space science research at the highest level in the world which contributes to expansion of intellectual assets such as exploration activities of unexplored space and the solar system.



Launching the H-IIA Launch Vehicle Number 11
(Provided by: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)

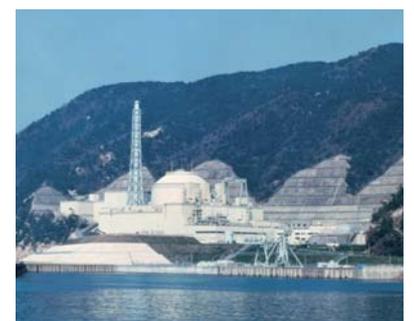
Promoting Research and Development in the Field of Nuclear Energy

MEXT supervises research and development on nuclear power, and in accordance with the Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy formulated by the Atomic Energy Commission (October 2005), it steadily promotes strategically important research and development on nuclear power, based on the premise of ensuring safety.

- It promotes research and development on the prototype fast breeder reactor Monju, etc., to establish the nuclear fuel cycle.
- It promotes the ITER Project, the Broader Approach Activities, and other fusion research and development that are expected to expand the selection of energy sources in the future, advanced nuclear science technology related to accelerators, etc., which may contribute to pioneering the frontiers of human

knowledge and to creating intelligent industries in Japan.

- While working with the localities where nuclear facilities are located, it develops policies to increase two-way communication and transparency through public hearings and public relations programs.



Fast breeder reactor *Monju*
(Provided by: Japan Atomic Energy Agency)

MEXT promotes research and development to solve social problems such as earthquake and disaster prevention, earth and environmental problems, and in the space, ocean and nuclear power fields, on a national scale such as rockets and satellites, sea floor exploration and observation of the South Pole, and the International Thermonuclear Experiment Reactor (ITER). It also works on nuclear power policies such as the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Promoting Research and Development in the Fields of the Ocean, the Earth and the Environment

MEXT works on research and development in the ocean, the earth and the environment to respond to problems related to human existence such as global warming and resource management, and to discover the nature of unknown regions of the ocean and earth's interior.

- It promotes efforts to establish the "Marine-Earth Observation System," a National Critical Technology designed to address global environmental issues, large-scale natural disasters and energy and resources issues.
- It promotes observations to gain a comprehensive understanding of the earth such as oceanographic observation using research vessels and buoys, Antarctic Research Programs, and satellite observation.
- It promotes research based on the observation data to predict and simulate global warming, climate change, water resource problems and water disasters in the future using Japan's supercomputer, the "Earth Simulator."
- Japan and the U.S. lead the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), using deep-sea drilling vessels such as "Chikyu" to drill on the deep sea floor to elucidate global environmental changes, seismogenic mechanisms and deep biosphere.



Deep-sea drilling vessel *Chikyu*
(Provided by: Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology)

Promotion of Research and Development for Earthquake and Disaster Prevention Studies

In order to build a society that offers better safety and security against natural disasters, MEXT promotes investigational observation and research on earthquakes such as inland earthquakes in the Capital, and research and development of scientific technology of disaster prevention to mitigate damage caused in case of a disaster.

- It promotes the "Special Project on Disaster Prevention or Mitigation of Inland Earthquake in the Capital," which aims to minimize damage caused by an earthquake by clarifying the nature of inland earthquakes in the Capital, and combining the new information with improved antiseismic techniques for safety and functionality of Urban Infrastructure and quick analyses of earthquake disasters immediately after occurrence.
- It promotes research and development of the nature of earthquakes conducted under the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion, including focused survey and observation in regions susceptible to strong shaking by earthquakes, as well as the development of a dense undersea network system equipped with seismometers and tsunami gauges in the Kumano Sea off the Kii Peninsula.
- In order to mitigate earthquake disasters, MEXT has performed the collapse test of the real-size wooden houses and reinforced concrete buildings by utilizing E-defense (3-D large size shaking table) to investigate the failure process of buildings and to verify the effectiveness of anti-seismic reinforcement.



Collapse test of wooden houses by E-Defense
(Provided by: National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention)

Striving to promote sports and a healthy mind and body, and a wholesome upbringing

Sports and Youth Bureau

Policy Planning Division

Sports-for-All Division

Competitive Sports Division

School Health Education Division

Youth Division

Physical Fitness Division / Youth Development Division

Promoting Sports

Achieving a lifelong sports society, in which anyone can practice sports at any time, anywhere and at any stage of their lives is an important issue in creating a society that is bright and energetic. Therefore, MEXT is working for that purpose by fostering comprehensive community sports clubs where everyone from children to the aged can participate according to their interests and goals. It is also working on measures to improve the strength of children.

Japanese athletes in the Olympics, etc., play a role in giving people dreams and excitement and contribute to creating a bright and energetic society. MEXT is working on measures to improve the international competitiveness such as equipping core facilities at national training centers for that reason.



Children enjoying sports



Athletes, Dai Tamesue (left) and Shingo Suetsugu (right) training on sand tracks
(Provided by: Aflo Photo Agency)



Outdoor training facility at the National Training Center, in operation since January 2007

MEXT is working to promote sports, including developing an environment where people can practice sports, athletes who perform in the Olympics and other events can improve their international competitiveness, improving children's strength, and enhancing school physical education. In addition, it is promoting policies to protect children's health and safety, such as ensuring children's safety at school, school health, and food education. Furthermore, it is promoting nature hands-on activities and reading activities to foster health in youth.

Enhancement of School Health Education

In light of serious problems in recent years of accidents and incidents occurring at schools or en route to schools, MEXT is strengthening its cooperation with homes and local communities to make schools a safe place for children and continuously maintain the children's safety.

With the smooth start in April 2005 of the diet and nutrition teacher system, MEXT promotes cooperation in food education between schools and homes and local communities. In addition, it is promoting all kinds of responses to problems revolving around children's health such as smoking and drinking, drug abuse, sex education, and allergy diseases.



An enjoyable school lunch

Promoting Sound Development of Youth

In order to foster richness of mind and socialization of youth, MEXT is implementing a variety of nature experience and other hands-on activities, supporting hands-on activities for children provided by citizens' groups, training instructors and providing opportunities for youths to join pioneering hands-on activities at national youth education facilities. In addition, it is working on youth problem behavior by enhancing moral education, supporting education in the home and working on countermeasures to harmful environments through schools, homes and local communities to firmly teach children social morality and ethics, socialization, the importance of life and consideration for others. Furthermore, it is working to provide children opportunities to read, and equipping libraries to spread and educate the importance of reading.



Hands-on activities
A present from the forest

“Power of Culture” is power of country!
We aim to be a nation based on culture and the arts.

Agency for Cultural Affairs

Commissioner's Secretariat

Policy Planning and Coordination Division

Copyright Division

International Affairs Division

Cultural Affairs Department

Arts and Culture Division

Japanese Language Division

Religious Affairs Division

Cultural Properties Department

Traditional Culture Division

Fine Arts Division

Monuments and Sites Division

Architecture and Other Structures Division

Basic Direction

On February 9, 2007, the Basic Policy for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts (Second Basic Policy) was decided stipulated at a Cabinet approval meeting. This formulated the basic direction to undertake in culture and the arts in order for the promotion of the arts and the protection of cultural and artistic properties. Here, at the Agency for Cultural Affairs, we aim to carry out measures in accordance with this policy for nation-building to achieve a nation focused on culture and the arts.

Promotion of the Creative Plan of Culture and Arts

The Agency for Cultural Affairs promotes the Creative Plan of Culture and Arts with the objective of providing comprehensive support including providing intensive support to the highest standards of public and traditional performing arts, fostering rising artists and encouraging Japanese movies and images.

It is working actively through the plan to support the development of media arts through cultivating human resources and establishing national centers of excellence; the Agency is promoting children's hands-on activities in culture and the arts by providing opportunities for children to be exposed to Authentic Stage Arts, as well as promoting regional culture by such measures as fostering local cultural leaders and promoting local cultural artistic groups.



Program to Experience Authentic Stage Arts (Arts Company) acted with students of Kitasato Elementary School, Misato City

Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties

Cultural properties are essential to the proper understanding of Japan's history and culture, appropriate preservation and utilization are therefore important. For that reason, based on the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, items or places are designated, selected or registered as National Treasures, Important Cultural Properties, Important Intangible Cultural Properties, Important Tangible/Intangible Folk Cultural Properties, Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, Natural Monuments, and Important Cultural Landscapes. The Agency also takes comprehensive measures for conservation and restoration, such as the establishment of disaster prevention facilities, the purchase by authorities, and conservation of historic sites, etc. The Agency is also endeavoring to preserve recordings and to train successors for intangible cultural properties.

Furthermore, the Agency nominated those properties of outstanding universal value among Japan's representative cultural heritage to bid for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Bingata dyeing, a national treasure from the Sho Dynasty of the Ryukyu Kingdom (belonging to Naha City Museum of History Collection)

The Agency implements a variety of policies on the promotion of culture and the arts in order to enhance Japan's "Power of Culture."

To that end, it helps to foster artists and related personnel to nurture artistic activities.

At the same time it promotes regional culture, the preservation and utilization of cultural properties such as national treasures and historic sites, international cultural exchange, copyright protection and exploitation of works, and the improvement and spread of the Japanese language.

It also does work related to religion.

Promoting International Cultural Exchange and International Cooperation and Exchanges

With increasing globalization, it is just as increasingly important that Japan improves understanding among people and contributes towards the realization of world peace through cultural exchanges.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs promotes projects that aim to create globally acclaimed artwork both within and outside of Japan. The Agency also promotes international cultural exchange through various programs, such as supporting overseas performances by theatrical groups, holding the World Cultural Forums, and sending Special Advisors for Cultural Exchange.

Furthermore, in order to protect cultural assets at risk of damage all over the world, we assist by implementing the dispatching of professionals as well as in fostering the training processes, and by holding Overseas Exhibitions.



The Japan World Cultural Forum



International cooperation at the remains of the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan (Provided by: National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo)

Copyright Policies that Respond to a New Era

The Agency has established a subdivision on copyright in the Council for Cultural Affairs to consider improvements to the copyright law system to respond to social changes and the development and diffusion of information technologies.

It also performs educational services pertinent to copyrights, and implements various policies to promote smooth use

and distribution of works.

Furthermore, it responds to international issues by strengthening countermeasures against pirated goods circulated overseas and participating in the creation of international regulations on copyrights.

Japanese Language Policy

In order for the Japanese language to be respectfully recognized as a crucial foundation of Japanese culture, the Agency promotes the improvement and spread of the Japanese language based on the considerations of the Subdivision on National Language of the Council for Cultural

Affairs (formerly the National Language Council).

In consideration of the increasing number of foreigners in Japan, as well as of people studying Japanese both in Japan and overseas, the Agency is taking measures to promote Japanese language education for foreigners.

Administration of Religious Affairs

The Agency is in charge of approval affairs of religious juridical persons based on the Religious Juridical Persons Law, collects material pertaining to religion, and works to administer

the religious juridical persons system appropriately.

The Religious Juridical Persons Council has been established as a MEXT consultative body.

MEXT's helmsman

Minister's Secretariat

The Minister's Secretariat has comprehensive responsibility for coordinating MEXT's overall policies.

In addition to general management functions such as personnel, general affairs and accounting, it performs overall administration such as policy evaluation, information disclosure, public relations, information processing, administering international relations, and international assistance cooperation.

Personnel Division

General Affairs Division

Budget and Accounts Division

Policy Division

International Affairs Division

Contact for International Exchange and Cooperation

Director-General for International Affairs

As the international contact point for MEXT, it promotes exchange activities and cooperative projects with a variety of countries.

As the contact point for activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Japan, it works on the spread of education, scientific cooperation and the preservation of cultural heritages through UNESCO.



Open forum held by the Japan National Commission for UNESCO



UNESCO Children's Performing Arts Festival of East Asia (Mongolia)

Aiming for educational facilities that are comfortable and make learning easy

**Minister's Secretariat
Department of Facilities Planning and
Administration**



It promotes Guidelines for Upgrading of School Facilities, barrier free facilities and eco-schools with the objective of providing pleasant and rich educational facilities.

It also works to strengthen disaster prevention functions including earthquake resistant school facilities, ensure safety and security in educational facilities by taking crime prevention measures and environmental measures, and also time supports disaster recovery of educational facilities.



An elementary school combined with social education facilities

Promotion of Earthquake Resistant School Facilities and Disaster Response and Recovery

It is extremely important to ensure the safety of school facilities because they are a place where children engage in activities for most of the day and at the same time play roles as temporary evacuation centers for local residents in case of disasters such as earthquakes.

For that reason, MEXT presents Guidelines for the Promotion of Earthquake-Resistant School Buildings, which gives the basic approach to improve earthquake resistance of school facilities, and at the same time, it is promoting a variety of policies to strengthen school buildings against earthquakes more efficiently such as establishing Grants to Create Safe and Secure Schools in the FY2006 budget which expands the range of discretion of the local governments which are responsible for implementing

earthquake resistance measures.

It also works to collect disaster information quickly and accurately on educational facilities when natural disasters such as earthquakes occur, and provides national funds for a portion of the expenses required for recovery from the disaster, for the quick restoration of public school facilities, etc. that were damaged.



An elementary school that has been reinforced against earthquakes with steel braces

Promotion of Facility Improvements at National Universities, etc.

Facilities of national universities, etc., are important bases for the promotion of creative and cutting edge academic research and development of creative human resources.

MEXT drew up the Second Five-Year Program for Emergency Renovation and Building of Facilities of National Universities in April 2006, which calls for the facilities to be urgently improved within a period of five years between 2006 and 2010, in accordance with the Third Term Basic Plan for Science and Technology. It also promotes prioritized and systematic improvement of the facilities for national universities.

This plan regards reconstruction of the facilities, which have deteriorated over the years, as the most important issue. By reconstructing the deteriorated facilities, combined with eliminating overcrowded facilities, the way will be paved for the facilities to be reborn as bases from which to foster excellent personnel,

or as global centers of excellence in research.

MEXT is further promoting system reforms such as proper facility management for effectiveness and flexibility in the use of facility spaces, and new means of facilities improvement (e.g., improvements in cooperation with local governments).



Reconstruction of deteriorated facility

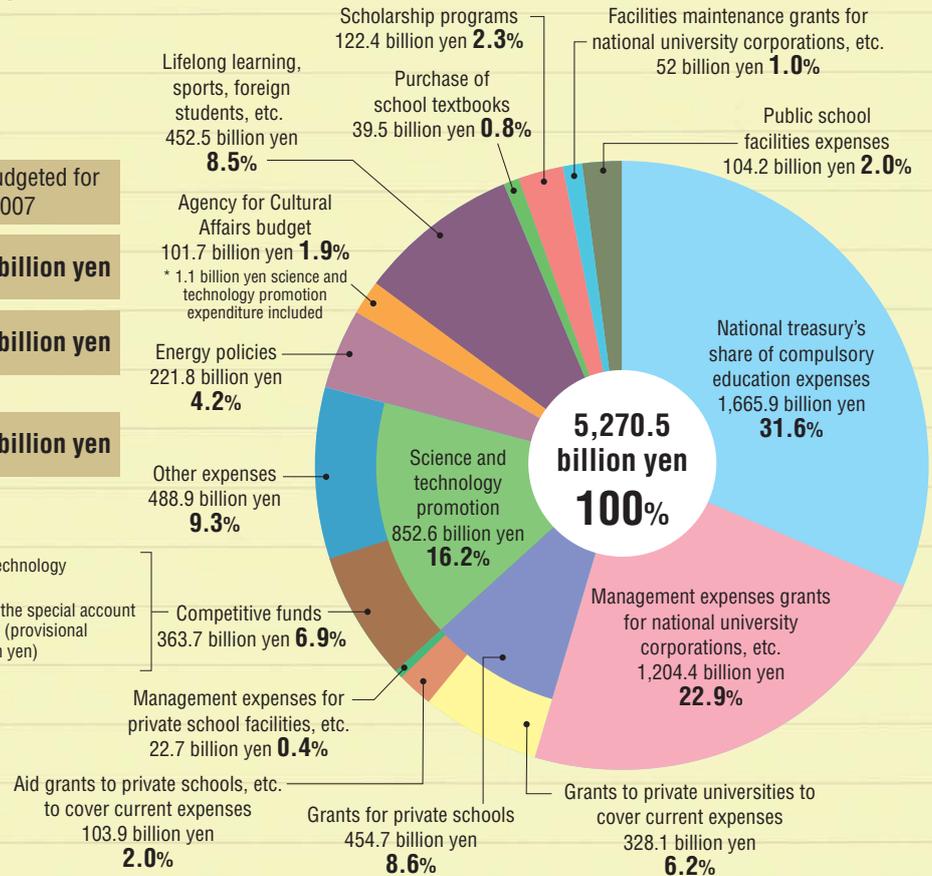


Before renovation

After renovation

Data 1 MEXT's General Budget for FY2007

Classification	Amount budgeted for FY2007
MEXT General Budget	5,270.5 billion yen
Including Agency for Cultural Affairs (Reference)	101.7 billion yen
Annual expenditures for Japan	46,978.4 billion yen



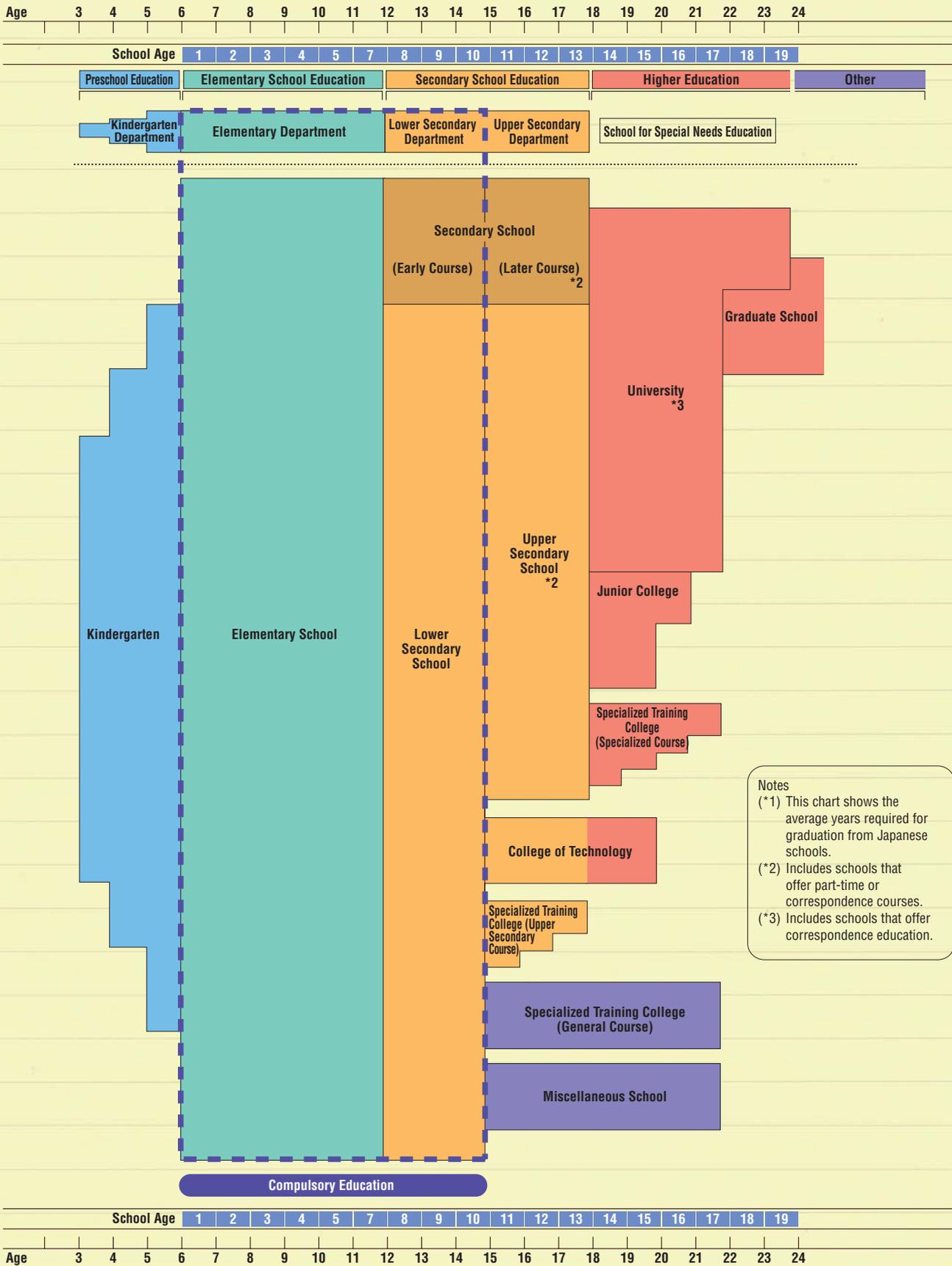
* Competitive funds are 42.7% of science and technology promotion expenditure
 * In addition 5.2 billion yen was appropriated in the special account budget for energy issues promotion measures (provisional name) (Competitive funding total: 368.9 billion yen)

Data 2 Number of Schools, Students and Teachers (As of 1 May, 2006)

	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Full-Time Teachers
Elementary Schools	22,878	7,187,417	417,858
Lower Secondary Schools	10,992	3,601,527	248,280
Upper Secondary Schools	5,385	3,494,513	247,804
Secondary Schools	27	11,648	818
Schools for the Blind, the Deaf and otherwise Disabled	1,006	104,592	65,057
Kindergartens	13,835	1,726,520	110,807
Specialized Training Colleges, Miscellaneous Schools	5,170	900,142	52,572
Colleges of Technology	64	59,380	4,471
Junior Colleges	468	202,254	11,278
Universities	744	2,859,212	164,473

* There are correspondence schools for upper secondary schools, universities and junior colleges in addition to these.
 Data: FY2006 School Basic Survey

Data 3 Japanese School Systems *1



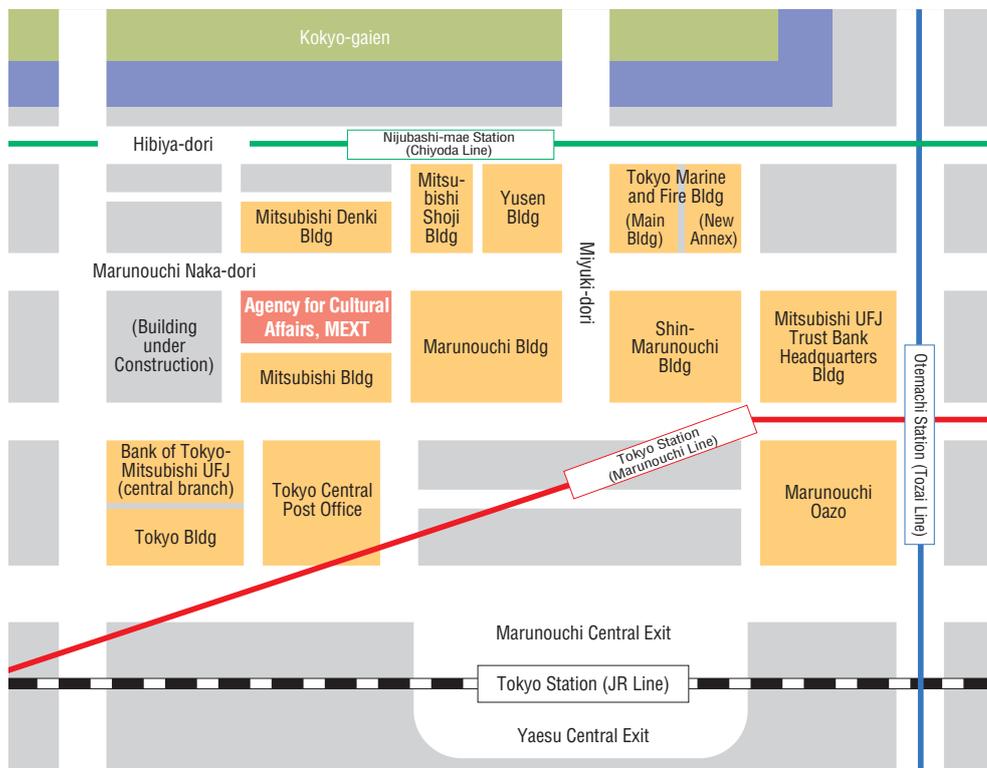
Introduction of Related Independent Administrative Institutions

Name	Telephone Number	Website Address
National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER)	03 (5721) 5150	http://www.nier.go.jp/
National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP)	03 (3581) 2391	http://www.nistep.go.jp/
The National Institute of Special Needs Education (NISE)	046 (848) 4121	http://www.nise.go.jp/
National Center for Teacher's Development (NCTD)	029 (879) 6613	http://www.nctd.go.jp/
National Center for University Entrance Examinations	03 (3468) 3311	http://www.dnc.ac.jp/
National Institute for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)	042 (353) 1500	http://www.niad.ac.jp/
Center for National University Finance and Management (CUFM)	043 (274) 3801	http://www.zam.go.jp/
National Institute of Multimedia Education (NIME)	043 (276) 1111	http://www.nime.ac.jp/
Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)	045 (924) 0361	http://www.jasso.go.jp/
Institute of National Colleges of Technology, Japan	043 (351) 5090	http://www.kosen-k.go.jp/
The Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools in Japan	03 (3230) 1321	http://www.shigaku.go.jp/
National Women's Education Center, Japan (NWEC)	0493 (62) 6711	http://www.nwec.jp/
The National Science Museum	03 (3822) 0111	http://www.kahaku.go.jp/
National Institution for Youth Education	03 (3467) 7201	http://www.niye.go.jp/
National Agency for the Advancement of Sports and Health (NAASH)	03 (5410) 9124	http://www.naash.go.jp/
National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS)	029 (859) 2000	http://www.nims.go.jp/
National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS)	043 (251) 2111	http://www.nirs.go.jp/
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED)	029 (851) 1611	http://www.bosai.go.jp/
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)	0422 (40) 3000	http://www.jaxa.jp/
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)	03 (3263) 1722	http://www.jsps.go.jp/
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	048 (226) 5601	http://www.jst.go.jp/
RIKEN (Institute of Physical Chemical Research)	048 (462) 1111	http://www.riken.jp/
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)	046 (866) 3811	http://www.jamstec.go.jp/
The National Institute for Japanese Language	042 (540) 4300	http://www.kokken.go.jp/
National Museum of Art	03 (3214) 2561	http://www.momat.go.jp/IAINMoA/
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage	03 (3822) 1111	http://www.nicp.go.jp/
Japan Arts Council	03 (3265) 7411	http://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/
Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)	029 (282) 1122	http://www.jaea.go.jp/

Floor Directory

10 F	Press Conference Room, Meeting Room
9 F	Minister's Secretariat (General Affairs Division)
8 F	Minister's Secretariat (Personnel Division, Policy Division, International Affairs Division) Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau, Director-General for International Affairs
7 F	Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau
6 F	Higher Education Bureau, Sports and Youth Bureau
5 F	Science and Technology Policy Bureau
4 F	Research Promotion Bureau, Research and Development Bureau
3 F	Agency for Cultural Affairs
2 F	Minister's Secretariat (Budget and Accounts Division, Department of Facilities Planning and Administration)
1 F	Reception

Access Map to MEXT



[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Website Address]

<http://www.mext.go.jp/>

<http://keitai.mext.go.jp/> (Cell phone version)





<http://www.mext.go.jp/>

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

2-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 Tel: 03-5253-4111



From **MEXT** we get **NEXT**

MEXT is the acronym of "Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology" taken from the its abbreviation MECSSST.