

# Overview of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology



**MEXT**

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE, SPORTS,  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

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# EDUCATION

教 育



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

科学技術・学術



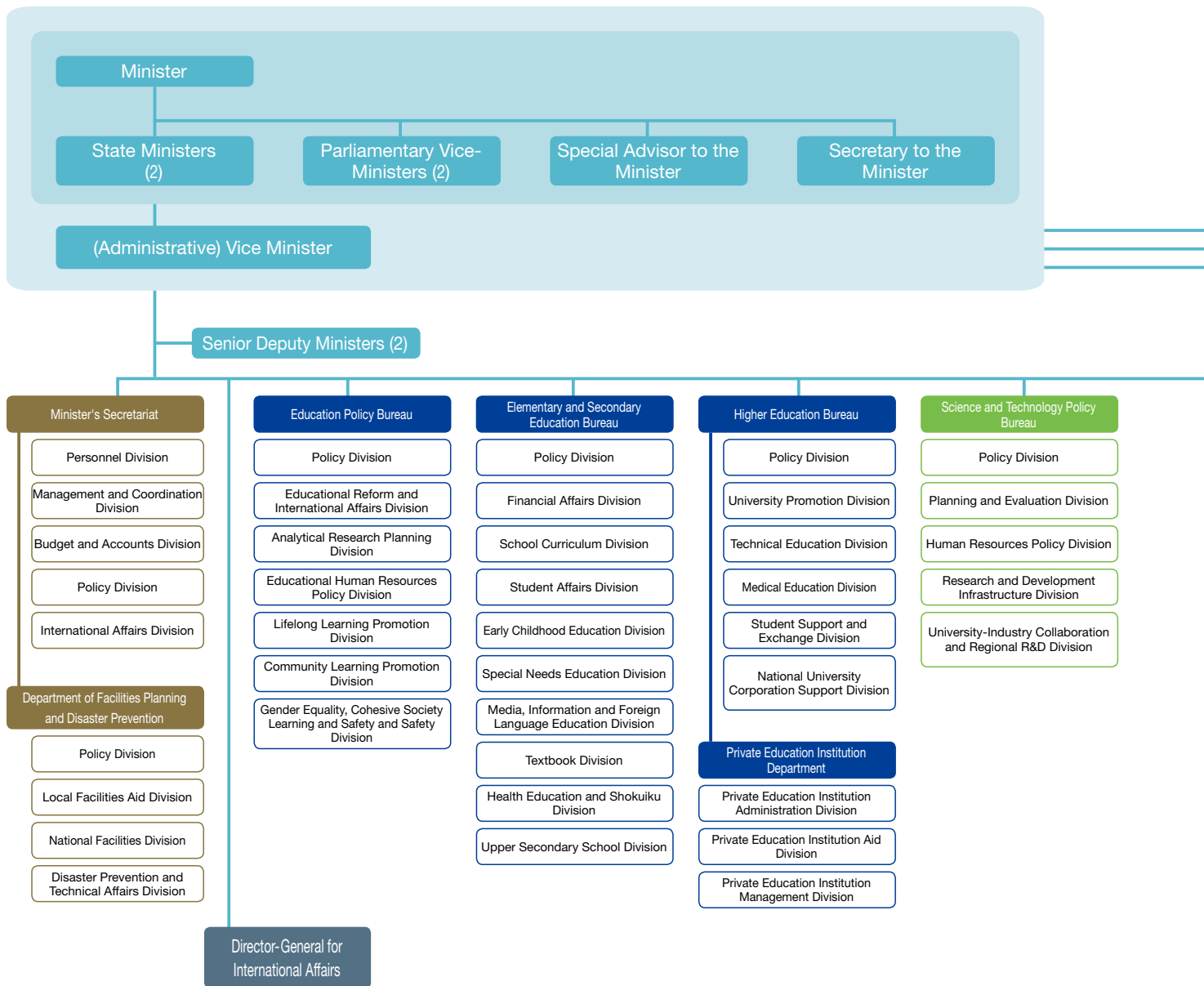
# SPORTS

スポーツ



# CULTURE

文 化



## 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 Basic Act on Education, School Education Law, enacted
1949	Scientific Technical Administration Committee established
1950	Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties enacted; 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	Science and Technology Basic Law enacted
1996	First Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2000)
1998	Nagano Olympics held
2000	Basic Plan for the Promotion of Sports formulated (to FY2011)

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

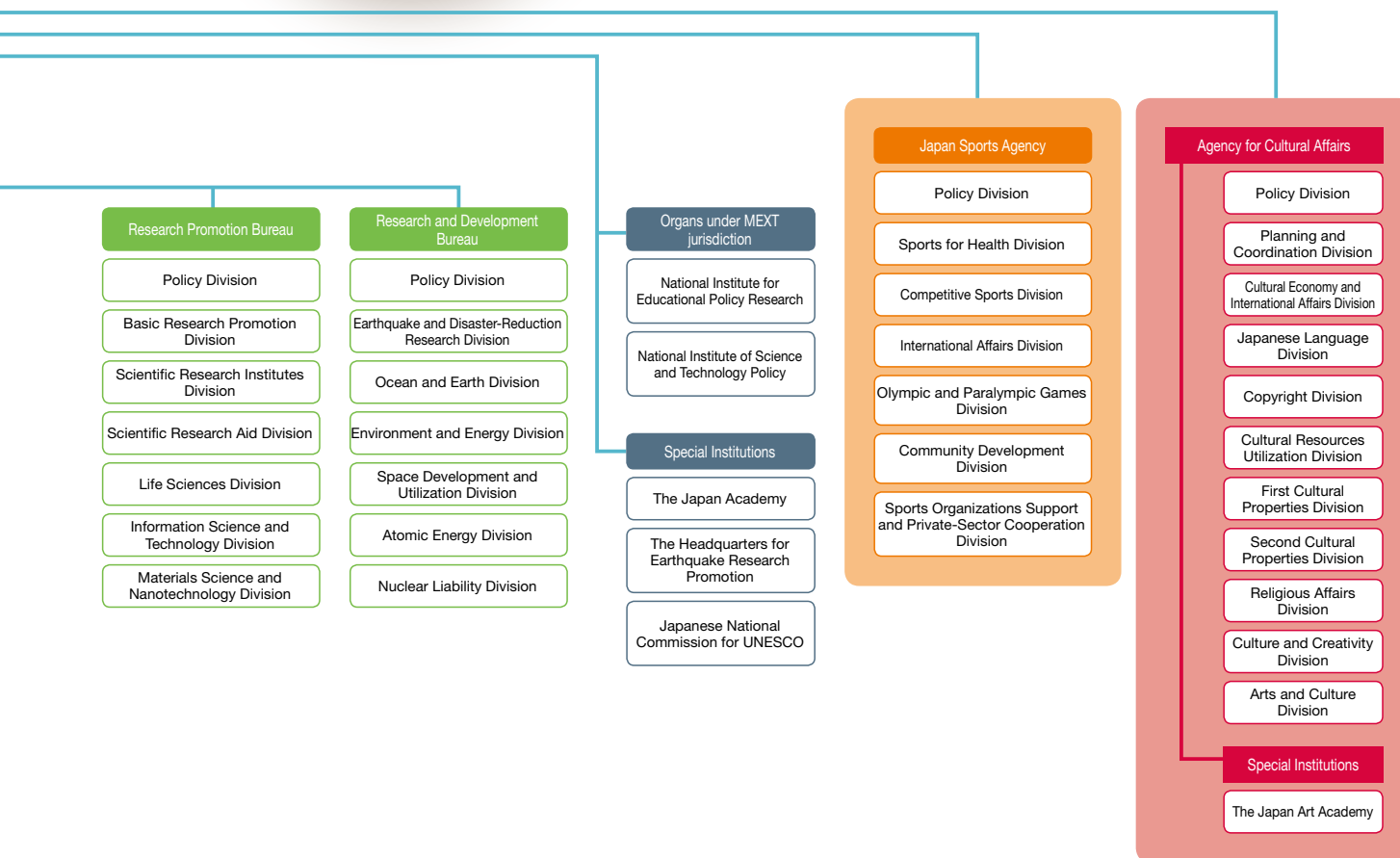
(as of October 16, 2018)



# MEXT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE, SPORTS,  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

MEXT Staff Members	Ministry	Japan Sports Agency	Agency for Cultural Affairs
2,124	1,743	121	260



2001	MEXT established (merging of the Ministry of Education, Science Sports and Culture and the Science and Technology Agency as a result of the reorganization of central government ministries and agencies) Fundamental Law for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts enacted Second Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2005)
2002	First Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts formulated (to FY2006) Five-day week system implemented for schools
2006	Third Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2010) Revision of the Basic Act on Education enacted
2007	Second Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts formulated (to FY2010)
2008	First Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education formulated (to FY2012)
2011	Third Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts formulated (to FY2015) Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2015) Basic Act on Sport enacted
2012	First Sport Basic Plan formulated (to FY2016)
2013	Second Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education formulated (to FY2017)
2015	Fourth Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts formulated (to FY2020) Japan Sports Agency established (external bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
2016	Fifth Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2020)
2017	Second Sport Basic Plan formulated (to FY2021)
2018	Third Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education formulated (to FY2022)

# Education Policy Bureau

**Promoting the entirety of education policy comprehensively in a cross-sectoral manner to develop an environment to enable people to learn as needed and live a fruitful life**

In order to realize the concept of lifelong learning prescribed in the Basic Act on Education, MEXT plans and designs basic education policy based on comprehensive and objective evidence, and promotes lifelong learning, learning in local communities and learning for coexistence from the perspective of fostering personnel, developing an environment and offering support for businesses.

Policy Division

Educational Reform and International Affairs Division

Analytical Research Planning Division

Educational Human Resources Policy Division

Lifelong Learning Promotion Division

Community Learning Promotion Division

Gender Equality, Cohesive Society Learning and Safety Division

## Promoting Educational Reform

The Third Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education was formulated (Cabinet decision in June 2018) based on the Basic Act on Education. MEXT promotes education policy, focused on maximizing possibilities and chances for individuals, toward the 100 year life era and Super Smart Society (Society 5.0). The ministry will promote educational reform in a timely fashion by offering support for overseas educational facilities and providing high school students with education to deepen international understanding, while promptly ascertaining changes in the educational environment in Japan including further globalization and informatization in the educational field.

It is indispensable to promote policy making based on comprehensive and objective evidence (Evidence-based Policymaking: EBPM) in order to effectively and surely implement education policy. In addition to fundamental statistical surveys, such as the School Basic Survey and the Social Education Survey, MEXT conducts the National Assessment of Academic Ability and surveys concerning education in foreign countries.

## Fostering Specialized Human Resources Who Support Education

Strengthened efforts to foster specialists who support education are indispensable for surely implementing education policy.

The enhancement of school education largely depends on the quality and abilities of teachers, who directly play the central role, and therefore, improving teachers' quality and abilities is a significant policy issue for enhancing education for children. MEXT will steadily reform the fostering, recruiting and training of teachers in an integrated manner so that teachers can gain professional and practical leadership. The ministry reviews means of fostering teachers in response to newly arising educational problems, examines measures to secure excellent personnel, further enhances the content of training for teachers, trains managerial personnel, and improves professional graduate schools for teacher education, thereby supporting vocational development of teachers throughout their careers.

Additionally, MEXT integrally promotes training and development of social education supervisors and other personnel, as well as librarian teachers and school librarians. In this manner, the ministry strives to comprehensively foster specialized human resources who support education.



Training at the National Institute for School Teachers and Staff Development

## Promoting Lifelong Learning

In the era of the 100-year lifetime, it will become more and more important to cultivate people's abilities and skills for working as professionals throughout life or otherwise promote lifelong learning through school education and social education.

In addition to facilitating enrollment in the University of the Air and promoting education at specialized training colleges, MEXT promotes related measures systematically, including recurrent education at universities and career education and vocational education from the stage of elementary and secondary education, with the aim of achieving a society where anyone can learn anywhere at any time.

MEXT also designs and operates a mechanism to properly evaluate achievements in learning such as through encouraging people to work towards private certification examinations and organizing upper

secondary school equivalency examination, and has been endeavoring to develop infrastructure to enable people to participate in high-quality learning activities as many times as they want throughout life, while seeking collaboration with various lifelong learning-related measures of other ministries and agencies.

## Promoting Learning in Local Communities



A member of the local community teaching children about growing vegetables during a Living Environment Studies class (Kiyosu City, Aichi Prefecture/ Kiyosu City Council for Promoting School, Family, and Community Partnerships)

In order to sustain the vitality of society amid depopulation, it is essential to enrich individuals' lives and strongly promote learning in local communities for solving local issues and vitalizing communities in collaboration with school education and home education.

MEXT promotes School-Community Partnerships by implementation of Community School (School Management Council System) to utilize the power of local communities in school management, and promotion of "Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education" through involving the entire community in fostering children, who are the torch bearers of our future, while aiming to vitalize respective communities. These activities, in collaboration and cooperation between schools and communities, include community development through education, local studies, After-school Classes for Children, and learning support for junior and senior high school students (Chiiki Mirai Juku: community-based learning support). At the same time, the ministry promotes community learning hubs, such as community learning centers and libraries.

MEXT also supports voluntary initiatives in local communities so that parents can receive information and take classes on home education and have a place to go for consultation. The ministry has been working to establish a system for household visits by home education support teams comprised of community members, and has been promoting the national "Early to Bed, Early to Rise, and Don't Forget Your Breakfast" campaign to improve children's basic lifestyles.

MEXT promotes various experience-based learning activities including international exchanges to foster richness in humanity and a spirit of cooperativeness that are needed to survive in today's society. In addition, the "National Institution for Youth Education," which has 28 youth education facilities nationwide, provides experience-based learning activities and supports private entities engaged in youth education.



Children's Reading Day poster

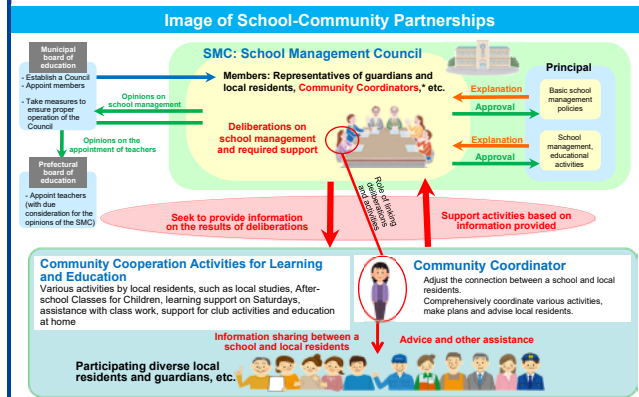
Based on the Fourth Basic Plan to Promote Children's Reading (Cabinet decision in April 2018), the ministry endeavors to help children build the habit of reading and raise their interest in books, in accordance with their developmental stages from infants and preschoolers to elementary school children, junior high school students and senior high school students. MEXT also examines ways to help students develop the required sovereign power and promotes voter education.

## School-Community Partnerships

School-Community Partnerships are a mechanism used by local residents and schools to collaborate and deliberate on their visions and goals by participating in the meetings of a School Management Council (SMC) and jointly carrying out Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education. The goal of these partnerships is to effectively promote collaboration and cooperation between schools and communities, thereby enhancing the learning experience of children and improving school management.

SMC: Pursuant to the Act on the Organization and Operation of Local Educational Administration, a board of education establishes a School Management Council for each school under its jurisdiction to ensure that the opinions of guardians and local residents are reflected in the school's management. An SMC functions as a platform enabling guardians and local residents to present their opinions on the management of the relevant school and approve basic school management policies prepared by its principal.

Community Cooperation Activities for Learning and Education: Diverse activities (e.g., community development through education, local studies, After-school Classes for Children, and learning support for junior and senior high school students (Chiiki Mirai Juku: community-based learning support)) involving the participation of a broad range of local residents to support the learning and development of children Pursuant to the Social Education Act, a Community Coordinator is commissioned by the board of education to comprehensively coordinate the various activities and play the role of a bridge between the school and the community.



## Promoting Learning for Coexistence

Developing an environment for learning as the basis of people's social participation and activities is necessary for enabling all people to respect and support each other, participate in society with confidence and pride, and enjoy a safe, peaceful and fruitful life, irrespective of gender, nationality or whether having any disabilities or not.

MEXT comprehensively supports and promotes learning for coexistence, such as learning activities for creating gender-equal society under the Basic Act for Gender-Equal Society and the government's Basic Plan for Gender Equality based thereon, lifelong learning of persons with disabilities, and guidance for children and students of foreign nationalities.

Additionally, the ministry aims to create a safe and peaceful inclusive society through promoting high-quality school safety measures against traffic accidents of children on their way to and from school, natural disasters and cases involving suspicious persons, in collaboration with local communities. Specifically, the ministry strives to develop community-based networks to protect children's safety and provide safety education to children so that they acquire the quality and abilities to act independently to ensure their own safety and to also contribute to the safety of local communities. The ministry also takes countermeasures against harmful environments for juveniles such as for preventing damage by online crimes, and further improves consumer education toward the lowering of the age of adulthood in 2022.



Children cooperatively creating a community disaster prevention map (Kochi Prefectural Board of Education)

# Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau

Planning educational enhancements from preschools through elementary, lower and upper secondary schools or equivalent schools to foster the world's top level academic ability and normative consciousness

MEXT develops education to nurture in all children competencies for living, focused on the overall balance among academic ability, richness in mind and a healthy body, and promotes fostering of globally-minded individuals who will lead society in the future. MEXT also works to maintain and enhance the national educational level by improving teachers' quality and constructing the necessary teaching frameworks for educators.

Policy Division

Financial Affairs Division

School Curriculum Division

Student Affairs Division

Early Childhood Education Division

Special Needs Education Division

Media, Information and Foreign Language Education Division

Textbook Division

Health Education and Shokuiku Division

Upper Secondary School Division

## Developing "Competencies for living (Ikiru chikara)"

MEXT established the National Curriculum Standards as a standard for formulation of school curriculums to ensure a certain level of education throughout the country.

The current National Curriculum Standards revised in 2008 and 2009 aim to nurture in children competencies for living, emphasizing a good balance among solid academic ability, richness in mind and a healthy body.

Along with the rapid progress of artificial intelligence (AI) and globalization, social changes are accelerating and becoming more and more difficult to predict and increasingly complicated. In order to surely develop the competencies of children necessary for creating their future under such circumstances, MEXT revised the National Curriculum Standards for kindergartens and elementary and lower secondary schools in March 2017 and for upper secondary schools in March 2018.

The new National Curriculum Standards aim to realize a "curriculum open to society" to foster children's competencies jointly with society, while sharing the goal of creating a better society through better school education. MEXT has been endeavoring to surely foster competencies that will be required in the future through lesson improvement from the perspective of proactive, interactive and authentic learning (so-called active learning) and curriculum management.

MEXT will steadily make efforts to realize education aimed at in the new National Curriculum Standards by broadly disseminating the purport thereof and collecting and introducing best practices.

In March 2015, MEXT partially revised the National Curriculum Standards with respect to moral class and newly positioned moral class as a special subject: Morality. The ministry is promoting various measures to drastically improve and enrich moral education.

Since FY2007, MEXT has been implementing the National Assessment of Academic Ability in Japanese and mathematics (additionally in science in FY2012 and FY2015) for students in the sixth year of elementary school and the third year of lower secondary school. The results are being utilized to promote measures to improve educational policies and classroom teaching nationwide.



## Constructing Necessary Teaching Frameworks for Educators

Every Japanese citizen is guaranteed an equal opportunity to receive compulsory education. In order to maintain standard compulsory education, the law stipulates important factors within the school educational environment including the number of students per class and teacher placement. Moreover, as elementary, lower and upper secondary public school teachers are regarded as local public employees, the government shoulders one-third of school teachers' salaries based on the Compulsory Education System Funded by Tax Revenues.

Through this system, MEXT promotes the reform and enhancement of teacher training systems for school education including compulsory



education, while comprehensively assessing the efficacy of its policies with a diversity of purposes and means of education in mind.

In addition, it has become difficult for teachers to manage the various issues with their sole expertise in today's schools, as the environment surrounding children has become increasingly complex and diverse, and the social demand for enhancing the quality of school education has been increasing. Therefore, based on the idea "Team Gakkou (School as a Team)", MEXT places specialized staffs with diverse expertise, to coordinate and share a wide variety of work with the teachers already placed in each school, aiming to improve the educational function and the organizational capability of schools and to realize education that corresponds to the various needs of each child.

## Work Style Reform of Schools

Nowadays, the environment surrounding schools has become increasingly complex and diverse, and roles expected for schools are expanding: for example, facing the issue of poverty involving children or increasing requests from guardians. Teachers are also required to improve the quality of education by reforming classes, and to deal with various educational issues. Against this background, MEXT promotes the Work Style Reform of schools to reduce our teachers' long working hours and to have them secure time to come face-to-face with children by the following measures: thorough efforts to ensure proper sharing and assigning of work of schools and teachers and appropriate management of duty hours, and developing the environment necessary for each measures.

## Tuition Support for Children and Students

MEXT provides financial support to reduce educational costs so that all children and students can securely receive an education regardless of their families' financial situations. These financial supports do not require repayment and they include school aid to lower-income households at the elementary and middle school stage, the High School Tuition Support Fund System that covers tuition fees, and the High School Supplemental Scholarship System for lower-income households that covers other related expenses such as the cost of school supplies.

## Dealing with Undesirable Behavior such as Bullying, Prohibiting Corporal Punishment, and Promoting Career Education

### ● Dealing with undesirable behavior

MEXT encourages the early detection of and response to undesirable behavior such as bullying by promoting moral education, sufficient hands-on experience activities, preventive measures, counseling systems, and collaboration between related organizations.

### ● Strictly prohibiting physical punishment

The School Education Law strictly prohibits corporal punishment. MEXT works to spread thorough awareness of prohibiting corporal punishment by carrying out fact finding surveys on corporal punishment and to highlight the differences between discipline and corporal punishment using specific case studies.

### ● Promoting career education and development

MEXT promotes career education to foster necessary skills for children to lead independent lives. Knowledge of entrepreneurial experience and Regional Revitalization have come to be regarded as important perspectives.



## Promoting Special Needs Education

Special needs education for students with disabilities aims to fully develop students' capabilities, independence and social participation in consideration of the educational needs of every individual. In order to build the inclusive education system as proposed by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, MEXT promotes special needs education by providing students with appropriate guidance, educational materials, assistive devices, and necessary support in diverse places including classes for special needs education, special support services in resource rooms and regular classes at regular elementary and lower secondary schools, as well as classes at schools for special needs education, according to every individual's specific disabilities.



Student using a percussion device placed under foot (partial revision of photo from research report provided by National Institute of Special Education)

## Promoting Information Education and Foreign Language Education

### ●Promoting informatization of education

Amid rapid progress towards an information society, it is becoming increasingly important for children to acquire information literacy as basic skills to independently select and utilize appropriate information and information sources and to proactively respond to such society.

Additionally, easy-to-understand classes need to be provided to develop children's academic ability. As one of the instruction methods, effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) in classes is important.

It is pointed out that teachers do not have enough time to face children as problems confronted by schools are becoming more and more complicated and diverse. The effective use of ICT is expected to streamline school management.

MEXT is broadly promoting the cultivation of children's information literacy, the use of ICT in course instruction, the introduction of the integrated school management support system, and the development of ICT environment at schools.

### ●Nurturing globally-minded individuals

With the advance of globalization, it is necessary to nurture globally-minded individuals who excel in language, communication skills, subjectivity and understanding towards different cultures, from early stages of elementary schools as well as lower and upper secondary schools. Communication skills in foreign languages will come to be required in various scenes throughout life, not limited to some specific professions or industries as before.

In 2020, foreign language activities are to be commenced in middle elementary grades and foreign language class is introduced as a new subject for late elementary grades. For implementing the new National Curriculum Standards for elementary and lower and upper secondary schools, MEXT is endeavoring to strengthen foreign language education, including English, develop teaching materials in conformity to the new National Curriculum Standards, and enhance English teachers' leadership and command of English. Additionally, the ministry is developing Super Global High Schools (SGHs), which aim to encourage students to have global ways of thinking with interest and deep knowledge concerning social problems, communication skills, and the ability to solve problems, thereby fostering global leaders who can work globally in the future.



New learning materials for the 5th and 6th grades "We Can!" and for the 3rd and 4th grades "Let's Try!"

## Promoting Early Childhood Education

Early childhood is a crucial period that builds the base for lifelong character formation. As such, it is important that every young child is provided with quality preschool education. MEXT strives to (i) mitigating the economic burden for users with free early childhood education; (ii) upgrade educational content for kindergartens by implementing the National Curriculum Standard for Kindergartens revised in March 2017; (iii) enhance the quality of early childhood education through running projects for constructing a childhood education promotion system for local governments; and (iv) accept children who are waiting for the admission to day-care centers at kindergartens based on the Plan for Raising Children with Peace of Mind.

In addition, under the Comprehensive Support System for Children and Child-rearing that started in April 2015, early childhood education and care, as well as childcare support by the community, are to be provided comprehensively to all children and households rearing children. Relevant ministries and agencies are collaborating with each other to establish common benefits (facility-type benefit) system via centers for early childhood education and care, kindergartens and day-care centers, and to improve the center for early childhood education and care system and enhance child-rearing support in accordance with the circumstances of respective communities (Local Children/child-rearing Support Service).

## Enhancing School Textbooks

School textbooks play an important role as the main learning material of subjects used in classes at school to advance children's learning. Textbooks do a great deal to ensure a child's equal opportunity to receive an education. In order to maintain and improve national education standards, they must be used in elementary, lower and upper secondary schools, and special needs schools, etc.

Japan has introduced the textbook authorization system. All textbooks written and edited by private publishers are authorized in accordance with the National Curriculum Standards and Textbook Authorization Standards. Boards of education, etc. then decide which textbooks to adopt from among authorized textbooks. Moreover, Japan has adopted free supply of textbooks which is implemented to further disseminate free compulsory education, and has promoted special course textbooks such as enlarged textbooks so that students with disabilities can learn sufficiently.

The Amendment to the School Education Act, etc. (Act No. 39 of 2018) is enforced on April 1, 2019. Under the amended Act, digital textbooks may also be used as needed, while paper textbooks remain to be used mainly, ahead of the implementation of the new National Curriculum Standards.

## Free Textbook System

The system to provide school textbooks for compulsory education free of charge. It aims to realize the spirit of free compulsory education stipulated in Article 26 of the Constitution of Japan. It has been implemented for over 50 years since 1963, and has widely taken root in Japan. The system aims to deepen the national awareness of students who represent the next generation and reduces the educational expenses of households. The subjects of this system are school textbooks for all subjects in compulsory education. For FY2018, a budget of around 43.2 billion yen has been allocated for this system, and a total of around 100 million textbooks were distributed to about 9.80 million students.

## Promoting a Flexible Education System Suitable for a New Era



### ●Providing learning opportunities at evening classes for lower secondary schools

Evening classes for lower secondary schools have played an important role to accept various students, including individuals who have not graduated from elementary or junior high schools, individuals with foreign nationals, lower secondary school graduates for relearning, and school-aged individuals who are unable to attend school.

MEXT is promoting the establishment of at least one school in each prefecture, enhance educational activities in evening classes and enhance the diversity of individuals in evening classes. In this manner, the ministry has been comprehensively promoting measures to provide learning opportunities to individuals who have not had sufficient opportunity to obtain education equivalent to ordinary compulsory education.

## Enriching School Health Education

In order to realize the sound growth of children both in body and in mind, it is essential to advance measures concerning food education, school lunches and school health. MEXT strives to promote food education headed by diet and nutrition teachers, whose system was commenced in FY2005, to equip children with correct knowledge on food and diet and the ability to make judgment independently, and to help them establish desirable eating habits, so that they can have a sound diet throughout their life. Furthermore, MEXT promotes efforts to utilize locally produced ingredients and serve local cuisine and traditional dishes for school lunches.

Moreover, in order to correspond to children's increasingly diverse and complicated health issues including food allergies and mental health and to ensure that children can manage and maintain good health by themselves throughout life, MEXT promotes health education covering problems of smoking and drinking habits and substance abuse, as well as sex education. The ministry promotes the establishment of School Health Committees that facilitate children's good health in collaboration among schools, families and local professional organizations, etc., or otherwise promotes the organization of school health systems in respective schools. The ministry also seeks collaboration with local medical institutions by establishing Regional Examination Committees, in order to promote efforts integrally with respective communities.



Children eating school lunch (Shimanto City, Kochi)

## Reform of Upper Secondary School Education

The percentage of students continuing to higher education is around 99% at present. Upper secondary schools have become national educational institutions. However, individuals' abilities, aptitudes, interests and career choices have diversified. In order to respond to those various needs and to ensure that students acquire skills necessary for surviving in coming eras, MEXT is striving to enhance upper secondary school education in collaboration with local communities, launch a mechanism for Learning Assessment for upper secondary school students, and promote vocational education in the fields of agriculture, industry and commerce. In this manner, the ministry is reforming upper secondary school education to enable the establishment of distinguished schools that cultivate the individuality of each and every student.

# Higher Education Bureau

## Planning promotion of higher education focusing on undergraduate and graduate schools

MEXT pursues various policies as follows to promote higher education: grants permission for the establishment of universities, junior colleges, and colleges of technology; assures the quality of education through teacher evaluations; supports university education reform; and fosters high-level professionals. At the same time, MEXT performs administration for the selection of students' admission, student support, internationalization of universities and foreign student exchanges, and the invigoration of incorporated national universities. In addition, the ministry promotes private schools through tax incentives, subsidies and administrative guidance and advice.

Policy Division

University Promotion Division

Technical Education Division

Medical Education Division

Student Support and Exchange 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

## Improving Undergraduate and Graduate Schools

### ● Promoting measures for future university education

Japan is now confronted with various domestic issues including declining birthrates and an increasingly aging society. At the same time, the nation must also grapple with the drastic societal changes of globalization and a knowledge-based society. Against this backdrop, universities will play an extremely important and diverse role for the nation's well-being and socio-economic development by nurturing human resources possessing a broad range of knowledge and a high level of expertise, in addition to being able to solve society's various problems through a variety of research methods. Universities also serve as a base for the revitalization of local communities and must actively lead society in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge and values.

In order to respond to the nation's needs, MEXT strives to ensure the execution of university reform in order to realize university education of the highest international standards while considering the proposals and deliberations made by the Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding and the Central Council for Education.

### ● Quality assurance of university education

As universities aim to foster the diverse knowledge needed to function in the 21st century, the quality of undergraduate education must first be reformed to foster students' subjective thinking and learning. The Central Council for Education has also proposed the need for qualitative changes in university education. In order to ensure the quality of university education from admission to graduation, the council has developed and introduced three integrated policies (diploma, curriculum, and admission policies) in addition to proposing evaluation system reforms. Moreover, the final report of the Council for Reform on the System of Articulation of High School and University has addressed specific measures for facilitating a smooth transition from high school to university by making integrated changes to high school and university education as well as to selection of university entrants.

Working against this backdrop, MEXT is examining further measures and working to reform the current system and regulations, etc. At the same time, the ministry is working to secure the budget needed to guarantee and enhance the quality of university education through various initiatives, including reforming the smooth transition from high school to university.

### ● Enhancing graduate education

MEXT strives to enrich and enhance graduate education by advancing implementation of the Program for Leading Graduate Schools, which aims to significantly reform university education by nurturing leaders active across various fields in industry, academia and government, and WISE Program (Doctoral Program for World-leading Innovative & Smart Education), which aims to foster excellent doctors who lead all sectors and to establish bases for human resources development and personnel exchanges and for sustainable development of new joint research projects.



Student-led group work in a Program for Leading Graduate Schools

## ● Supporting educational reform of national, public and private universities

In order to solve policy issues in need of swift correspondence by higher educational institutions such as strengthening the quality and functions of university education, MEXT strives to advance the development of innovative and pioneering educational research programs along with supporting measures to establish education research bases in a competitive environment whether for national, public, or private schools.

## ● National university reform dealing with society's demands

Since the incorporation of national universities in April 2004, each national university corporation has endeavored to strengthen functions individually taking advantage of their own founding principles and characteristics. Amid today's rapid socioeconomic changes, national universities are expected to actively contribute to further advance Japan's growth and development.

MEXT establishes operational goals to be achieved by national university corporations once every six years, and national university corporations are required to make plans to achieve those goals, respectively. For the period for the third medium-term objectives, which started in FY2016, MEXT advocates the need for each national university corporation to promote reform by making the most of their respective strengths and characteristics in order to maintain competitiveness sustainably and create high added value. In FY2017, the ministry launched a Designated National University Corporation System, under which the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology designates universities that have significant potential for developing world-leading education and research activities. MEXT continues to build on past initiatives aimed at enhancing the functions of national universities while hammering out further reforms that will give them an even more vital role to play.

## ● Fostering high-level professionals and technicians

Universities train advanced professionals with highly specialized knowledge and skills based on the needs of various industries. In the medical-related field, for example, MEXT works to foster outstanding medical doctors who aspire to work in regional medical care and outstanding medical researchers who work on creating future medicine, who are able to respond to society's rapid medical needs. In the veterinary field, MEXT works to foster outstanding veterinarians who work to improve animal and public hygiene.

Professional graduate schools assume a leadership role in various areas of society, providing graduate courses (professional degrees) which specialize in fostering highly-specialized professionals who will be active internationally. These schools have been established to train professionals in the fields of law (law schools), education (professional graduate schools for teacher education), accounting, business administration, management of technology (MOT) and public policy.

Colleges of technology are institutions of higher education which provide specialized education with an emphasis on experimentation and practical training over a period of five years for students who have completed lower secondary school education. These colleges foster practical and creative technicians who represent the backbone of manufacturing.

Additionally, in response to partial amendment of the School Education Act, MEXT established a system for professional and vocational universities and professional and vocational junior colleges, aiming to foster specialized professionals who are industry-ready with practical skills in specialized fields and have the ability to create new goods and services. The new system is scheduled to be implemented in April 2019.

## Scholarship Loan Programs

Scholarship loan programs are important educational measures for the goals of equal educational opportunity and human resource development. They are broadly implemented by various organizations including the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO). JASSO provides scholarship loan programs for students who have difficulty getting an education due to financial reasons. The programs offer grant-type scholarships and loan-type scholarships (interest-free scholarship loans and low-interest scholarship loans). A grant-type scholarship

program was created and implemented in advance in FY2017 and full-scale implementation was commenced in FY2018. The coverage of interest-free scholarship loans was expanded significantly in FY2017 and loans have come to be provided to all eligible applicants. An income-based repayment system, in which the amount of monthly repayment is linked to the individual's income after graduation, was also introduced. MEXT has thus been striving to enhance scholarship loan programs for university and other students.

## Promoting Private Schools

Japan's private schools carry out unique educational and research activities in the spirit of their founding and play an important role in Japanese school education. Seventy percent of university and junior college students, 30 percent of upper secondary school students and 80 percent of kindergarteners go to private schools in Japan.

MEXT works to promote the stable and continuous management of private schools through measures including subsidies focused mainly on operating costs, loans through the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan, tax incentives and support for administrative guidance and improvement.

## Promoting the Internationalization of Universities and Two-way Student Exchanges

The world is rapidly globalizing in various aspects, and giving people the skills needed to play an active role in the international arena is becoming increasingly important. Playing a vital role in developing highly capable human resources, Japanese universities are strongly expected to work on internationalizing their education and research environments and promoting two-way student exchanges.

MEXT is moving ahead with the Top Global University Project, which is designed to support universities that are making an all-out effort to open their doors to the rest of the world through collaboration with overseas universities, as well as the Inter-University Exchange Project, which provides support to collaborative programs with universities in strategically important countries and regions while assuring the quality of higher education and so on. There were approximately 31,000 exchange agreements between Japanese and foreign universities in 2015. An increasing number of universities have established systematic and continuous programs by collaborating with foreign universities through credit transfer and double degree programs.

MEXT is also working to create the Asian Higher Education Community and promote interaction among students in the region through discussion and development of guidelines for ASEAN countries, Japan, China and South Korea. As of May 2017, there were approximately 267,000 international students studying at Japanese universities, etc. while approximately 55,000 Japanese students went abroad to study in 2015.

Moreover, through the "TOBITATE Young Ambassador Program," MEXT aims to double the number of Japanese students studying abroad, and the number of international students studying in Japan by the 2020 Olympics. MEXT is also working on promotion of the strategic acceptance of outstanding international students.



Send-off party for 8th TOBITATE Young Ambassador Program participants

# Science and Technology Policy Bureau

## Creating necessary frameworks for continuous innovation

MEXT plans and proposes basic policies to realize continuous innovation in science and technology, implementing cross-sectoral initiatives in line with its science and technology innovation policies. Specific initiatives include research and assessments on science and technology and development of human resources in science and technology, from students to leading researchers and engineers. MEXT also strategically promotes international activities in science and technology areas and collaboration among universities, industries, and the government; advances science and technology in regional areas; and works on improving, sharing and creating research platforms for research and development infrastructure.

Policy Division

Planning and Evaluation Division

Human Resources Policy Division

Research and Development Infrastructure Division

University-Industry Collaboration and Regional R&D Division

## Making Plans and Proposals for Basic Policies on Science and Technology

MEXT comprehensively promotes science and technology based on the Fifth Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY2016-FY2020) with the aim of making Japan the world's most innovative country. Based on this plan, the Science and Technology Policy Bureau contrives, formulates, and implements science, technology and innovation policies for realizing sustainable growth and the advancement of society. Moreover, the bureau has established the Council for Science and Technology, which examines and broadly deliberates important policies. The council actively contributes to the implementation of the Basic Plan by looking at overall progress of the plan and providing feedback.

## Conducting Research and Assessment on Science and Technology Policy

MEXT investigates and analyzes domestic and international trends in science and technology, and works on enhancing policies and plans based on objective evidence by promoting "science for re-designing science, technology and innovation policies" (SciREX). In addition, MEXT formulates "Guidelines for Evaluation of Research and Development in MEXT" and implements R&D evaluation according to the guidelines.

Moreover, based on the Science and Technology Basic Act, MEXT annually compiles science and technology-related policies implemented by the government and prepares the annual report on the promotion of science and technology (White Paper on Science and Technology), which is submitted to the National Diet.

## Nurturing Human Resources in Science and Technology-related Fields



Teams from different prefectures across Japan competing in the 7th Japan High School Science Championships (source: Japan Science and Technology Agency)

Facing rapid depopulation, falling birthrates, and population aging, Japan must foster and secure various human resources who work for science and technology innovation in order to continue growth and create new values. While expanding the range of people working in science and technology-related fields, MEXT advances efforts to foster outstanding researchers by systematically promoting the cultivation of human resources at each stage from elementary, lower and upper secondary school education to higher education, in addition to efforts to continue fostering those who have received doctoral degrees. MEXT is also taking measures to encourage active participation in society of various individuals including young, female and foreign researchers, research assistants and professional engineers, while promoting research integrity.

## Strategically Promoting International Activities in Science and Technology

MEXT promotes science and technology collaborations with various countries and international organizations, and also advances international research initiatives for science and technology diplomacy, which combines Japan's cutting-edge science and technology with diplomacy for the purpose of addressing global issues. Furthermore, MEXT facilitates international exchanges of researchers by dispatching Japanese researchers and accepting foreign researchers with the aim of building an international research network.



Gene analysis experiment on rice conducted under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) project: "Rice Farming Research for Tailor-made Growing and Cultivation Technology Development" (partner country: Kenya)

## Establishing a Systemic Virtuous Cycle of Human Resources, Knowledge, and Capital for Innovation

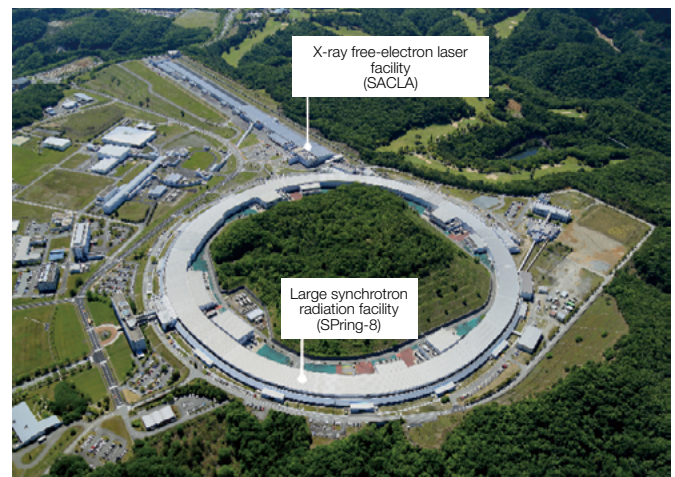
Establishing a systemic virtuous cycle of human resources, knowledge, and capital is vital to sparking the innovation that will help Japan grow and revitalize university education and research. To this end, MEXT works to promote collaborative research among the government, industry and academia; assists universities in establishing large-scale university/industry collaborative research and development platforms; facilitates the creation of university-originated ventures; fosters entrepreneurship; and implements projects focusing on strategic use of intellectual properties, etc. Establishing a system of innovation that will propel "Regional Revitalization" forward is essential to creating new products and services that highlight regional specialties as well as enhancing the value of existing industries. To this end, MEXT supports community-based efforts to create innovation in science and technology.

## Enhancing Research and Development Infrastructure

In order to produce cutting-edge research outcomes, the research facilities, equipment and devices used by researchers, which are the foundation upon which their research and development (R&D) rests, must be maintained at the latest international standards. MEXT works on maintaining and upgrading large research facilities such as SPring-8 (large synchrotron radiation facility), SACLA (X-ray free-electron laser facility), and J-PARC (high intensity neutron beam facility), and promoting their shared use. Additionally, MEXT is facilitating a public-private partnership plan for next-generation synchrotron radiation facilities, for which industry needs are highly expected in addition to needs in the academic research field. In addition, the ministry promotes R&D along with the application of state-of-the-art measurement analysis technologies and equipment, which are not only fundamental but instrumental to R&D in a wide range of fields.

MEXT also proactively promotes R&D of quantum science and technology, which is becoming more and more important as a fundamental technology for creating scientific and technological innovations, with the aim of utilizing the technology in solving significant problems in Japan's economy and industry, while striving to maximize the function of the National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology as a platform to support Japan's quantum science and technology.

Seeking breakthroughs exercising a significant impact on economy and society, MEXT promotes high-risk and high-impact R&D with challenging goals for the purpose of proactively creating discontinuous innovations.



Large synchrotron radiation facility (SPring-8)  
X-ray free-electron laser facility (SACLA)  
(RIKEN: Sayo-cho, Hyogo) (source: RIKEN)

# Research Promotion Bureau

**Promoting academic and basic research in universities, and advancing science and technology corresponding to policy issues**

MEXT advances policies to promote academic research originating from researchers' creative ideas by assisting research organizations and providing research grants. MEXT also promotes research in the fields of life sciences, information technology, nanotechnology and materials, and particle and nuclear physics. Moreover, MEXT promotes basic research aimed at practical application, while working to improve research facilities including research infrastructure and equipment and advancing their utilization in a variety of fields.

Policy Division

Basic Research Promotion Division

Scientific Research Institutes Division

Scientific Research Aid Division

Life Sciences Division

Information Science and Technology Division

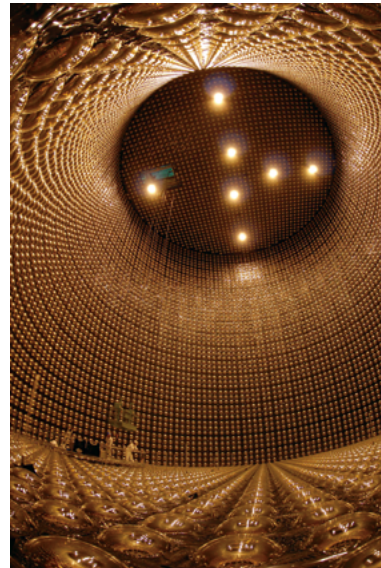
Materials Science and Nanotechnology Division

## Promoting Academic and Basic Research

Academic and basic research are the foundation for opening new knowledge frontiers and the source of stimulating innovation, and contribute to the expansion of intellectual assets shared by all of humanity. MEXT works to promote academic research at universities and inter-university research institutes to generate a diversity of knowledge based on creative ideas, striving to secure basic funds that support academic research and to expand the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), while reviewing the screening system and actively implementing institutional reforms such as establishing a fund to allow multiple-year appropriations of research funds. Moreover, MEXT promotes major international research projects to facilitate brain circulation and develop necessary research infrastructures under the Large-scale Academic Frontiers Project. Outcomes of the project include research work on the neutrino using Super-Kamiokande that was led by Dr. Takaaki Kajita of the University of Tokyo, who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 2015, as well as the Science Information Network (SINET5) that makes vast research data available to researchers around Japan via a stable, high-speed information network.

Basic research also plays a crucial role in the nation's social and economic development through stimulating innovation. MEXT promotes innovation-oriented basic research with competitive grants such as the Strategic Basic Research Programs. The National Research and Development Institute, RIKEN, has been carrying out R&D for realizing innovation as a comprehensive research institution for research in a diverse range of scientific disciplines.

MEXT also promotes the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI), aiming to create research environment of a sufficiently high standard to give them a highly visible presence within the global scientific community that will be of strong incentive to frontline researchers around the world to want to come and work at these centers.



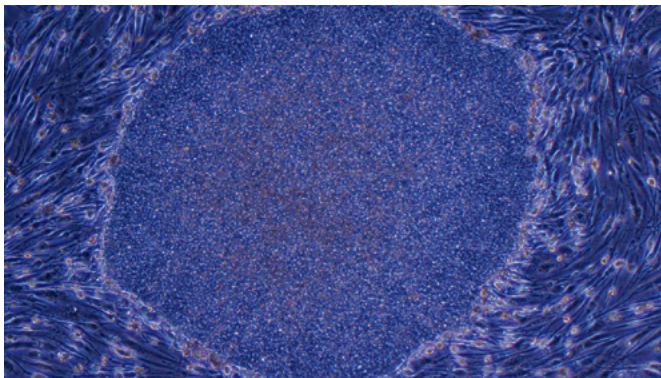
Super-Kamiokande (source: Kamioka Observatory, Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, University of Tokyo)

## Promoting Research and Development in Life Sciences

Life sciences aim to elucidate the complex and delicate mechanisms of life phenomena carried out by living organisms. It is also a promising field that is expected to greatly contribute to enhancing the nation's lifestyle and socio-economic development by realizing enhancement in people's health and longevity, preventing infectious diseases such as novel influenza and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as well as resolving food and environmental problems. MEXT works to advance the realization of regenerative medicine by supporting stem cell research including induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells), basic research on the prevention and



treatment of cancer and lifestyle-related diseases, brain science research aimed at analyzing the brain's functions and overcoming neuropsychiatric disorders such as depression and dementia, and R&D for realizing genomic medicine. Moreover, MEXT works to advance foundations of analytical equipment, databases and bio-resources, which contribute to a wide variety of life science research. MEXT also formulates and administers laws and regulations in order to appropriately correspond to safety problems and life ethics issues associated with life science research.



Human iPS cells (colony)  
(source: Prof. Shinya Yamanaka, Kyoto University)

## Promoting Research and Development in Information Science and Technology

Information science and technology, including innovative computing technology, data analysis technology and network technology, are the key to deriving successful results in various fields and are basic technologies indispensable for achieving Society 5.0, which aims to balance economic development and solution of social problems through the integration of cyberspace and physical space. In particular, artificial intelligence (AI) has come to attract people's attention as a result of advancement in hardware to process big data and progress in machine learning including deep learning, and R&D on AI has been picking up steam around the world. MEXT is promoting R&D and applications of AI technologies in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies, while leading the Strategic Council for AI Technology, and comprehensively facilitating R&D on innovative basic technologies centered on the RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project and funding for challenging research themes. Moreover, MEXT is linking nationwide university supercomputers with the K computer using the Science Information NETWORK (SINET5), building a High-Performance Computing Infrastructure (HPCI) aimed at realizing computing environments capable of responding to users' various needs, and working to create research outputs. At the same time, MEXT is undertaking a project that is aiming to develop the world's most advanced supercomputer that will replace the K computer.



Autonomous drone and technology to automatically detect damage in structures based on deep learning under development (source: RIKEN and Tohoku University)

## Promoting Research and Development in Nanotechnology and Materials Science

In nanotechnology, atoms and molecules are manipulated at the nanometer scale (one billionth of a meter) to create completely new functions by utilizing the characteristics particular to nano-scale materials. Nanotechnology and materials science are leading technologies open to new possibilities. These leading basic technologies will be applied over various areas and will support a wide range of technological fields. They also play significant roles as basic technologies to support physical space for achieving Society 5.0. The National Institute for Materials Science, for example, has developed a new olfactory sensor that is small and highly sensitive, and is working on its practical applications. In order to strengthen the nation's industrial competitiveness, MEXT is also promoting the development of new materials to replace rare earth and other critical elements, the establishment of new materials development techniques that will dramatically shorten development time by harnessing the power of data and information sciences, and the building of a network for shared use of cutting-edge nanotechnology research facilities.



Breath measurement using an olfactory sensor (source: National Institute for Materials Science)

## Promoting Research and Development in the Fields of Elementary Particles and Nuclear Physics

By using particle accelerators, the field of elementary particles and nuclear physics aims to probe into the properties of elementary particles and nuclei that constitute the materials and to clarify their structure and the origin of elements and fundamental forces at work in the universe. Achievements in this field include the discovery of element 113 (Nihonium) and the awarding of the Nobel prize by Dr. Kobayashi and Dr. Masukawa. Recently, an international joint experiment was commenced using the Super-KEKB accelerator / Belle II detector, a major upgrade of KEKB, which contributed to the awarding of the Nobel prize. MEXT promotes pursuing the fundamental laws of nature and developing cutting-edge particle accelerators.



Super-KEKB accelerator / Belle II detector (source: High Energy Accelerator Research Organization(KEK))

# Research and Development Bureau

Conducting large-scale research and development in the fields of space, nuclear power, oceans, environment and energy, and earthquakes and disaster prevention

MEXT promotes research and development to solve social problems related to the environment and energy, earthquakes and disaster prevention, and advances research and development on a national scale in the fields of space, nuclear energy, oceans and the earth including rockets and satellites, the nuclear fuel cycle and fusion energy, and Antarctic observation and deep-sea exploration.

Policy Division

Earthquake and Disaster-Reduction Research Division

Ocean and Earth Division

Environment and Energy Division

Space Development and Utilization Division

Atomic Energy Division

Nuclear Liability Division

## Promoting Research and Development in the Space and Aviation Fields

Space development and utilization play a crucial role in strengthening Japan's core foundations. Advances in space development are indispensable for improving the quality of people's lives through the utilization of satellite-based applications including telecommunications, broadcasting, weather forecasting, and earth observation; acquiring new knowledge on space science research; and also giving dreams to children.

As aircraft have also become an essential part of people's lives, it is vital to pursue cutting-edge technologies in aeronautics to advance the competitiveness of Japan's aviation industry and to ensure passenger safety.

Japan is promoting measures to secure a rocket launching system with the highest level of reliability in the world. The national primary launching vehicle has been successfully launched forty-two consecutive times in recent years. Satellites launched by the primary launching vehicle have contributed to ascertaining the status of damage upon large-scale natural disasters and understanding the mechanism of climate change, and the outcomes obtained through these initiatives have worked to enhance Japan's technological capabilities. In the International Space Station Program, Japan has been operating its laboratory "Kibo" and the H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV) "KOUNOTORI" which carries cargo to the International Space Station. In this manner, Japan has been making efforts for comprehensively promoting space environment utilization cooperatively with other countries.

- Promote research and development of space transportation systems such as the new national primary launching vehicle H3 to maintain and ensure autonomy in launching satellites and other spacecraft whenever necessary;
- Promote research and development of remote-sensing satellites that contribute to observation of the global environment and disaster monitoring, and communication satellites that are internationally competitive;
- Comprehensively promote the utilization of the space environment through the International Space Station and other space assets;
- Promote space science research at the highest level in the world such as space exploration of the developments of the solar system represented by the mission by "Hayabusa 2" and astronomical observation to explore the origin of space; and
- Promote research and development in aviation science and technology in response to social demands such as passenger safety and environmental compliance



Launching of H-IIA Launch Vehicle No.37 loaded with global change observation satellite "Shikisai" (GCOM-C) and super low altitude test satellite "Tsubame" (SLATS) (source: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and JAXA)

## Promoting Research and Development in the Nuclear Energy Field

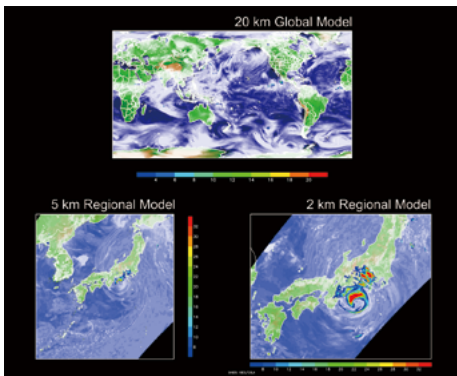
MEXT promotes nuclear energy research and development which is strategically vital for Japan. Based on lessons learned from the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (1F) accident, MEXT is reviewing future energy policies and promoting measures to help revive communities affected by the disaster including compensation for damage caused by the nuclear accident.

- Promote research and development related to decommissioning of 1F and recovery of the environment, which are necessary to help accelerate the revitalization of communities affected by the nuclear accident
- Promote research on reprocessing more usable fuel materials from spent nuclear fuel, and development of a nuclear fuel cycle which contributes to reducing the volume and hazard of radioactive waste, and safely and steadily advance decommissioning of the Fast Breeder Reactor "Monju"
- Support basic foundational research and human resource development carried out by research organizations and universities, including research on severe accidents, to contribute to securing nuclear safety
- Promote measures for supporting the harmonious relationship between each nuclear facility and its host community, and measures for securing nonproliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy



Fast Breeder Reactor "Monju" (source: Japan Atomic Energy Agency)

## Promoting Research and Development in the Environment and Energy Fields



Projection of precipitation distributions due to climate change in 209X in Japan and surrounding area (Outcome of MEXT's "Integrated Research Program for Advancing Climate Models")

In order to contribute to balancing economic growth and significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to climate change adaptation, MEXT promotes research and development to create a clean and economic energy system.

- MEXT promotes research and development on innovative energy technologies, such as next-generation semiconductors and storage batteries, which would contribute to achieving an energy saving society
- MEXT promotes research and development on climate change projections, including the creation of highly accurate information for climate change projections and the clarification of the mechanism of climate change, which serves as the foundation of domestic and international climate change measures (mitigation and adaptation)
- Promote cutting-edge research and development on nuclear fusion including the ITER Project and the Broader Approach (BA) Activities under international collaboration, in order to realize fusion energy, which is explained as "creating the sun on earth"

## Promoting Research and Development in the Oceans and on Earth

MEXT works on research and development of oceans and the earth to study marine resources near Japanese coastal waters, and to elucidate the nature of unknown regions of the deep sea and the Earth's interior.

- Promote observations to gain a comprehensive understanding of the oceans and the Earth such as oceanographic observation using research vessels, Antarctic Observation Programs and Arctic research
- Promote Japan, European consortium and the U.S.-led International Ocean Discovery 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 the deep biosphere



Deep-sea scientific drilling vessel "Chikyu" (source: Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology)

## Promoting Research and Development in the Earthquake and Disaster Prevention Fields

Japan is geographically located in a natural disaster-prone area frequently hit by earthquakes and tsunamis, such as the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, volcanic eruptions, typhoons and heavy snowfalls. MEXT promotes research and development which aims to mitigate damages caused by natural disasters.

- Propose policies for earthquake research promotion and carry out research for improving accuracy in forecasting earthquakes in terms of the probability of earthquake occurrence and its magnitude, and for better understanding the mechanisms of earthquakes
- Engage in large-scale observation and research projects on future earthquakes which are predicted to cause major socioeconomic damage, including earthquakes in the Nankai Trough region and those occurring directly under the Tokyo area
- Promote research and development of earthquake-resistant technologies by utilizing the E-Defense 3D full-scale earthquake testing facility and science and technology for mitigating various types of natural disasters



3D Full-scale Earthquake Testing Facility (E-Defense) (source: National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention)

# Japan Sports Agency

**Striving to comprehensively promote sports-related policies and to realize a sports-oriented nation**

MEXT strives to promote community sports, enrich school physical education programs, enhance international competitiveness, and advance the Olympic and Paralympic movement. With the establishment of the Japan Sports Agency, MEXT aims to actively promote a healthy lifestyle through sports, sports for the disabled, regional and economic revitalization, and international exchanges and cooperation.

Policy Division

Sports for Health Division

Competitive Sports Division

International Affairs Division

Olympic and Paralympic Games Division

Community Development Division

Sports Organizations Support and Private-Sector Cooperation Division

## Establishment of the Japan Sports Agency

The Japan Sports Agency was established in October 2015 as an external bureau of MEXT. The Agency aims to disseminate the value of sports from Japan, and to help create an environment where everyone can enjoy sports. The Agency is in charge of creating broad core policies related to sports. It coordinates policies and collaborates with other ministries to enhance a healthy lifestyle through sports along with regional and economic revitalization. The Agency also encourages measures in new areas such as international exchanges and cooperation through sports, and strives to create a society where people can maintain wholesome and cultured living throughout their lives, as stipulated in the principles of the Basic Act on Sport.

## Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle through Sports

The Japan Sports Agency aims to achieve a healthy longevity society wherein all people enjoy sports throughout their lives and make self-help efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle and extend healthy life expectancy. For that purpose, the Agency carries out projects to develop an environment to enable all people, regardless of age, gender or disability, to enjoy sports easily and encourage them to start doing some sports and to make exercise a habit.

## Promoting Para-Sports

The Japan Sports Agency is actively promoting para-sports so that people with disabilities can participate in society through sports. Specifically, the Agency assists people who work in sports-related fields and those who engage in welfare services for the disabled with their efforts to create a collaboration and cooperation framework and develop an environment to enable everyone to enjoy sports in their own backyard, regardless of whether they have disabilities or not. Additionally, the Agency advances an initiative to create community-based para-sports centers using Schools for Special Needs Education, etc., which are facilities familiar to disabled children and adults, thereby striving to further disseminate and promote para-sports.



FY2017 National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities

## Regional and Economic Revitalization through Sports

In order to promote regional and economic revitalization through sports, it is essential to create a virtuous circle of vitalization of the sports industry, enhancement of the sports environment, and expansion of the sporting population. The Japan Sports Agency implements sports-focused initiatives aimed at revitalizing local communities such as by promoting sports tourism and hosting large-scale sporting events and training camps. The Agency also strives to improve the attractiveness

and profitability of sports facilities, develop sports management human resources, and expand the sphere of sports through integration with other industries with an eye to transforming sports into a growth industry in Japan.

## Enriching School Physical Education and School Sports Clubs

The school curriculum for physical education and health places importance on realizing a fulfilling and active lifestyle by having students foster the quality and ability to enjoy sport throughout their lifetime. Based on this premise, the Japan Sports Agency strives to enrich the content of physical education and health classes, to revitalize sports club activities and to enrich teaching curricula.



Students participating in a gym class  
(source: Shinagawa municipal school, Houyou no Mori Gakuen)

## Improving International Competitiveness

Athletes take human potential to the limit, and their activities bring us dreams and excitement. The Japan Sports Agency is working on support for high performance sports by strengthening athletes throughout their career strategically, fostering and training coaches, and improving the basis for training and research so that athletes can deliver excellent performance in various international competitions.

## Preparing for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

In order to make the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 a success, the Japan Sports Agency strives to build an environment to enable athletes to exhibit their best performance. The Agency, in cooperation with relevant government agencies, will work toward the smooth preparation and management of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. The Agency will collaborate with the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC), and the Japanese Paralympic Committee (JPC). Moreover, the Agency also aims to expand the Olympic and Paralympic movement by advancing international contributions through sports, and expanding Olympic and Paralympic education nationwide.



From "Tokyo 2020 Tomorrow Project for Everyone" (source: Tokyo 2020/Shugo Takemi)

## International Exchange and Cooperation through Sports

Japan is promoting international contributions in the field of sports through the "Sport for Tomorrow Programme."

The Programme advances "International cooperation and exchange through sports," "Academy for Tomorrow's Leaders in Sport," and "'PLAY TRUE 2020' Develop sport integrity by strengthening global anti-doping activities." Toward Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and concrete actions thereto, Japan aims to expand sporting values and the Olympic and Paralympic movement to people of all generations for a better world. The Government of Japan has committed to creating our future through the power of sports by reaching more than 10 million people in over 100 countries in the seven years from 2014 to 2020.



Assistance to the Tanzania National Baseball Team through the "Sport for Tomorrow Programme"  
(source: JAPAN SPORT COUNCIL)

# Agency for Cultural Affairs

**Aiming to achieve a new "Nation Based on Culture and the Arts" through the promotion of arts and culture, ahead of the full-scale relocation of the Agency to Kyoto**

Ahead of the full-scale relocation to Kyoto (within FY2021 at the latest), the Agency for Cultural Affairs has worked on structural reform and strengthening of functions suited to its renewal, and implements a variety of policies on the promotion of culture and the arts towards realizing a "Nation Based on Culture and the Arts" (building the nation by promoting arts and culture as the nation's core policy). In concrete terms, the Agency fosters artists and related persons to nurture artistic activities, promotes regional culture, preserves and utilizes cultural properties such as national treasures and historic sites, and promotes activities of museums, international cultural exchanges, copyright protection and exploitation of works, improvement and spread of the Japanese language, and Japanese language education for foreigners. The Agency is also in charge of work related to religion.

Policy Division

Planning and Coordination Division

Cultural Economy and International Affairs Division

Japanese Language Division

Copyright Division

Cultural Resources Utilization Division

First Cultural Properties Division

Second Cultural Properties Division

Religious Affairs Division

Culture and Creativity Division

Arts and Culture Division

## Comprehensively Promoting Culture and Art Policies

On March 6, 2018, a Cabinet decision was made on the Basic Plan on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts (First Term) based on the Basic Act on Culture and the Arts. This plan covering the five years from FY2018 to FY2022 clarifies ideal culture and art policies into the future and basic directions to be aimed at for realizing them. Ahead of the full-scale relocation to Kyoto, the Agency fundamentally strengthened its functions and conducted structural reorganization, by additionally taking charge of planning of basic policies on culture and adjustments of affairs of relevant administrative organs. Based on these efforts, the Agency aims to comprehensively promote culture and art policies and globally spread the value of Japanese cultural properties and traditions in further strengthened collaboration with other relevant ministries and agencies. Drawing on the ripple effect on society created by arts and culture, the Agency will strive to overcome various issues to build a new social model befitting a mature society.



Abare Festival, an intangible cultural asset that is part of Noto's exciting Japan Heritage certified Kiriko Float Festivals

## Promoting Arts and Culture

Arts and culture including music, theater, dance, movies, animation and manga play an essential role, enriching people's lives by creating happiness and inspiration, while also having the power to invigorate society as a whole.

In order to promote arts and culture in Japan, the Agency supports creative performing arts such as music, theater and dance, fosters young and professional artists, provides substantial opportunities for children to experience arts and culture, assists local arts and cultural activities, and promotes media arts such as films, animation and manga through the Japan Media Arts Festival.



Student Development Program through Culture and the Arts (Touring Performance Program), orchestra performance

## Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties

Cultural properties are precious national assets which have been

created and cultivated throughout Japan's long history, and carefully handed down to the present. For that reason, based on the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the Agency designates, selects, and registers important items and places as National Treasures, Important Cultural Properties, Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, Natural Monuments, etc. While the Agency places certain restrictions on changing the existing conditions and on the exportation of cultural properties, it also takes other measures including those to preserve cultural properties through conservation and restoration, the establishment of disaster prevention facilities, and the provision of subsidies for public authorities to purchase historic sites. The Agency formulated the 2020 Strategic Program for Promoting Use and Understanding of Cultural Properties in FY2016. The program focuses on promoting integrated use of Japan Heritage sites and other regional cultural properties, making easy-to-understand guides to cultural properties available in multiple languages, and maintaining cultural assets through regular repair and cleaning to make them truly attractive and accessible to people as well as something the local people rely on.

Furthermore, the Agency works to register Japan's tangible and intangible cultural heritage as UNESCO World Heritage sites and Intangible Cultural Assets.

The Agency also promotes overall activities of museums through measures to facilitate collaboration among museums in various fields and enhance the quality of curators.



Case of use of historical building as a unique venue (event at Himeji Castle)

## Promoting International Cultural Exchanges and International Cooperation

Promotion of international exchanges and cooperation related to art and culture advances the development of cultural and artistic activities in Japan and also contributes to their development worldwide.

The Agency makes outstanding Japanese culture known around the world



Workshop on Nohgaku at the Catalan Association of Actors and Directors (Barcelona) by FY2017 Japan Cultural Envoy Michikazu Taneda

through initiatives such as sending specialists in culture as "Japan Cultural Envoy", promoting international cultural exchanges through art exchanges and holding overseas exhibitions.

In addition, the Agency promotes the appropriate preservation of cultural heritage overseas by actively joining in international cooperation, sending and inviting experts, and supporting the development of human resources.

## Promoting Copyright Policies Responding to a New Era

The Agency has established the 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 copyright, 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 by participating in international rule making on copyright.



FY2017 Lecture class on copyrights for library workers, etc (Tokyo)

## Promoting Japanese Language Policy and Policy on Japanese Language Education for Foreigners

In light of the importance of the Japanese language as a crucial foundation of Japanese culture, the Agency promotes the improvement and dissemination of the Japanese language. Specifically, the Agency is working to disseminate deliberations and reports (e.g. the *Joyo kanji-hyo*, or national list of Chinese characters in common use, common knowledge) of the Subdivision on the Japanese Language of the Council for Cultural Affairs (formerly the Japanese Language Council), and to conduct the survey of consciousness on Japanese Language.

Moreover, the Agency promotes Japanese language education for foreigners living in Japan by supporting the implementation of Japanese language classes, fostering human resources in charge of teaching Japanese classes and conducting various research and surveys.

### Joyo kanji-hyo

The *Joyo kanji-hyo*, a cabinet notification is the national list of Chinese characters in common use necessary to read and write Japanese today. It based on the report on the revised *Joyo kanji-hyo* released on June 7, 2010 by the Council for Cultural Affairs. And on November 30, 2010, The Cabinet decided this as a cabinet notification. Thereafter, some guidelines for the *Joyo kanji-hyo*, such as "Guidelines on character style and letter form related to the *Joyo kanji-hyo*", "Examples of using different Chinese characters which have same Kun-reading", were reported by the Council for Cultural Affairs. These are published on the website of the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

## Administration of Religious Affairs

The Agency is in charge of administrative affairs related to certification of religious juridical persons based on the Religious Corporations Act, collection of materials pertaining to religion, and appropriate administration of the religious juridical persons system.

The Religious Juridical Persons Council was established as an advisory organ to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.



Agency for Cultural Affairs Website(English)



Policy of Cultural Affairs in Japan(English)



The Journal of Agency for Cultural Affairs (English)

# Minister's Secretariat

## Chief Administrative Coordinator

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 administrative functions such as policy evaluation, information disclosure, public relations, information processing, administering international relations and international cooperation.

Personnel Division

Management and Coordination Division

Budget and Accounts Division

Policy Division

International Affairs Division

# Director-General for International Affairs

## Promoting UNESCO Activities

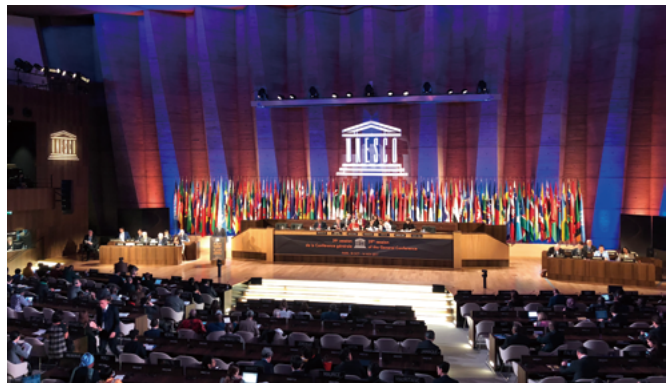
As the contact point in Japan for activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Director-General for International Affairs works on activities of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. The objective of UNESCO is to contribute to international peace and the common welfare of mankind by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture. Special emphasis is currently placed on promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and activities of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

## Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting

On March 21, 2018, the second Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan. At this second meeting, Japan, China and South Korea reconfirmed the significance of educational exchanges and cooperation having been developed among the three countries and adopted a joint communique, which compiles the future direction of the trilateral cooperation.



Ceremonial photograph of education ministers of the three countries (second Trilateral Education Ministers' Meeting)



39th session of the UNESCO General Conference



Ambassador to the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO



# Minister's Secretariat

## Department of Facilities Planning and Disaster Prevention

### Aiming for safe, secure and high-quality education facilities

Aiming for safe, secure and high-quality education facilities, the Department of Facilities Planning and Disaster Prevention promotes improvement in the earthquake resistance and disaster prevention functions of school facilities including nonstructural parts,\* and also promotes Eco Schools and operates measures for aging facilities, while establishing guidelines for maintaining school facilities. The department gathers information on damage upon the occurrence of a disaster and assists schools in disaster recovery. Moreover, it promotes the enhancement of national university campuses to support educational and research activities.

\* Nonstructural parts: Parts other than the structures of a building, such as ceiling materials, lighting equipment, window glass, exterior materials, interior materials, facility equipment, furniture, etc.

Policy Division

Local Facilities Aid Division

National Facilities Division

Disaster Prevention and Technical Affairs Division



Renovating aging facilities to improve education environments



Improving advanced research environments

### Promoting the Improvement of Safe and Secure School Facilities, Disaster Response and Disaster Recovery

Schools need to secure a safe and high-quality environment where children can learn and enjoy other activities lively. It is important to make responses flexibly to social changes, including diversification of the contents and methods of education, the declining birth rate and aging population, and advancement of information and communications technologies.

Therefore, MEXT publishes guidelines for presenting points to be considered in planning and designing school facilities as well as collections of good practices, and disseminates them among school establishments.

Through the provision of government subsidies, MEXT assists local governments with their efforts to improve the earthquake resistance of public school facilities including nonstructural parts. School facilities must also be multifunctional and equipped to function as places for education as well as evacuation centers. MEXT works to strengthen schools' disaster prevention functions by building escape routes, outdoor escape stairs, storage areas for emergency supplies, outdoor bathrooms and portable generators.

Moreover, in the event of a disaster, MEXT provides assistance by gathering information on damage and calling on related organizations to take necessary measures to secure children's safety, and also subsidizes a portion of the expenses needed for the recovery of public school facilities.

MEXT also promotes the establishment of Eco Schools by improving school facilities to reduce their environmental impact while enhancing their coexistence with nature. Eco Schools will also be used for environmental education while serving as a base for disseminating local environmental and energy education.

The aging of school facilities is a critical issue now that nearly 70 percent of all public elementary and lower secondary schools have been constructed over 25 years ago. In order to improve the safety and function of as many schools as possible within a limited budget, school facilities must not only be renovated by conventional methods to withstand a service life of 40 years, but must be upgraded into structures with a long service life of up to 80 years, while keeping construction costs low and environmental waste to a minimum. As such, MEXT established a system in FY2013 to subsidize renovations. The aim of these renovations is to improve the durability of school facilities and provide children with a secure educational environment. MEXT also assists local governments to advance measures for schools to improve the service life of school facilities by providing instructions for the planned development of improving aging school facilities.

### Eco schools

Eco schools are school facilities that raise environmental awareness. They contribute to reduce the environmental impact, while also used for environmental education, taking the lead as the base for disseminating local environmental education.

### Promoting the Improvement of Facilities at National Universities and Other Higher Educational Institutions

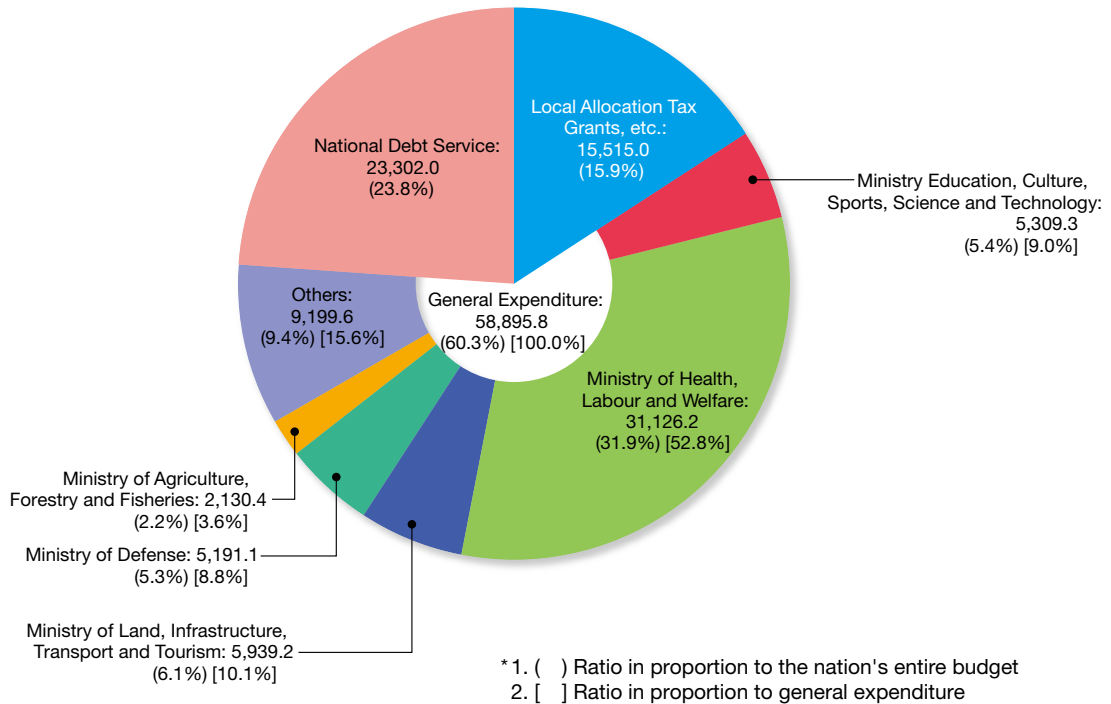
The facilities of national universities and other higher educational institutions are vital foundations for the development of creative human resources, innovative and diverse academic research, and advanced medical treatments.

However, now that an increasing number of such facilities will soon reach 50 years of age, higher educational institutions are facing the challenge of ensuring safety and adequate functions of these aging facilities in addition to the challenge of securing funds for maintaining them. These problems pose obstacles to their efforts to meet advanced and more diverse educational and research needs, such as the enhancement of international competitiveness and promotion of university-industry-government collaboration.

MEXT released its "Fourth Five-Year Program for Facilities of National Universities" (FY2016-FY2020) in March 2016. The program aims to strategically implement facility management measures as part of university operations while focusing on improving facilities and enhancing their functions to ensure a high quality, safe education and research environment.

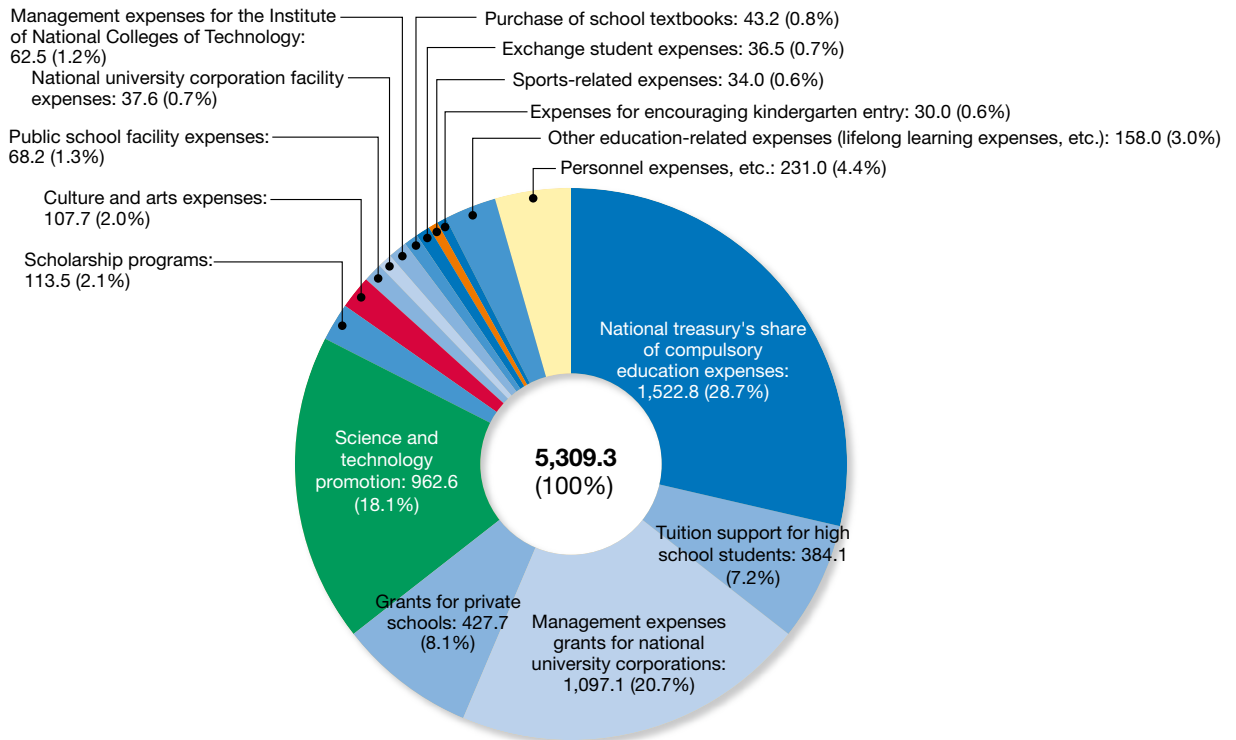
(1) National Budget

(unit: billion yen)



(2) Contents of MEXT General Budget

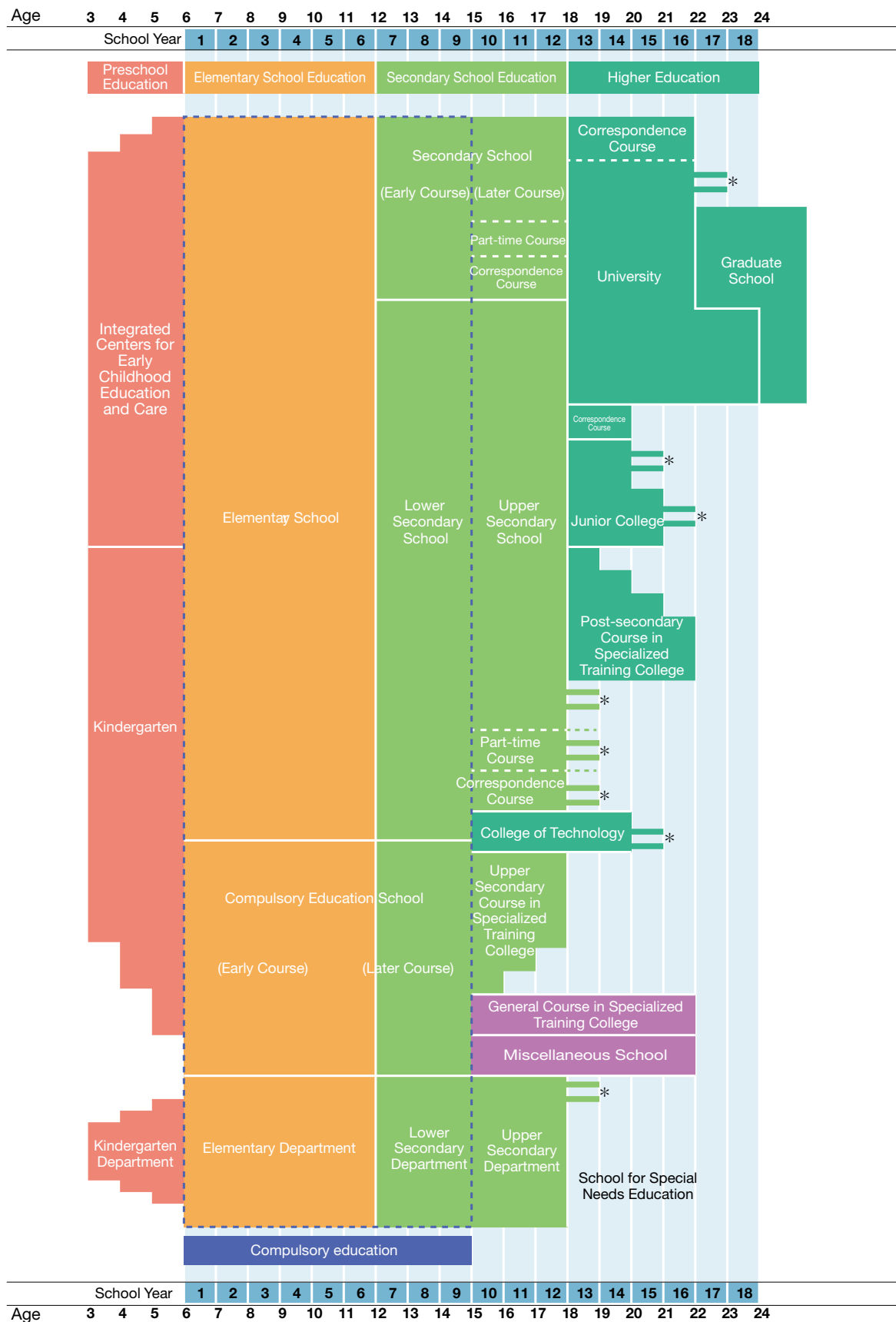
(unit: billion yen)



Classification	Budget for FY2017	Budget for FY2018	Increase/Decrease
			Growth Rate
MEXT General Budget	5,309.7	5,309.3*	-4.0 -0.01%

\*5,313.6 billion yen (increase of 3.9 billion yen) when including the amount transferred to the new children and child-rearing support system  
 (Note) This pie chart shows the breakdown of the FY2018 general budget of MEXT. Grants for private schools, culture and arts expenses, and sports-related expenses include duplication.

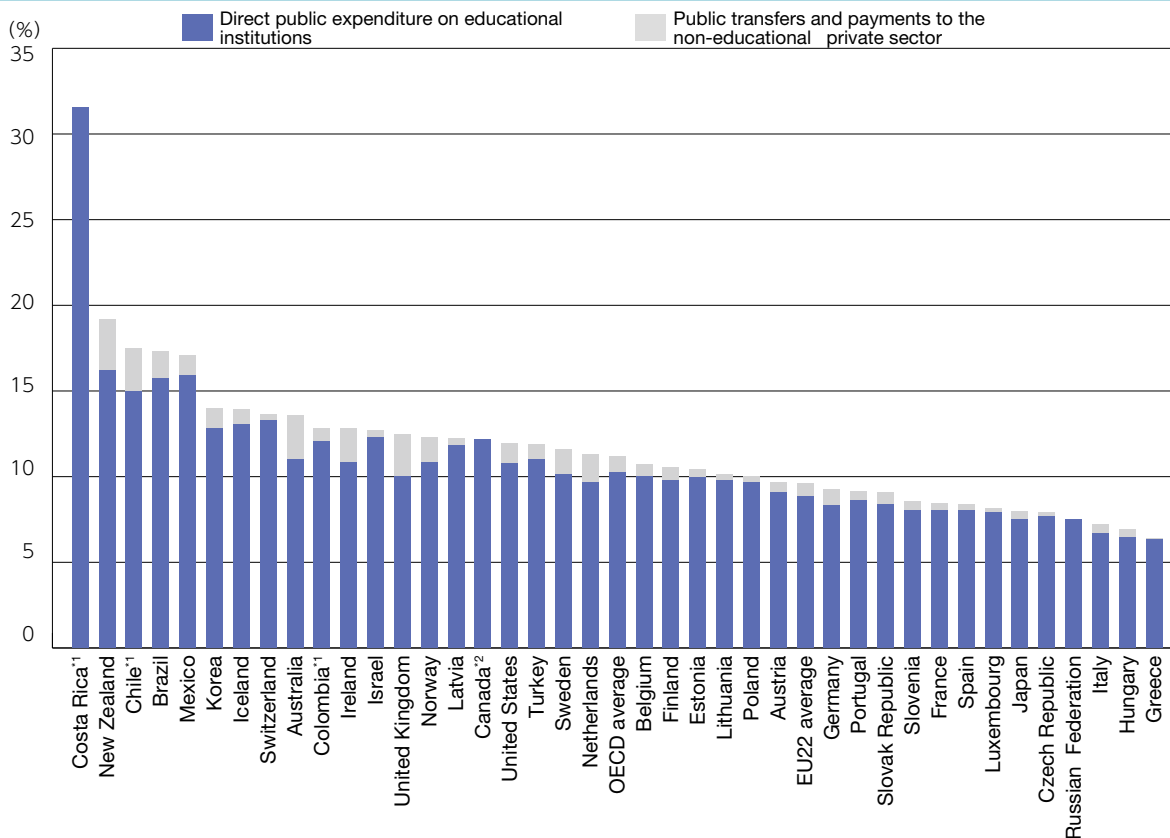
## Data 2 Japanese School Systems



(Notes)

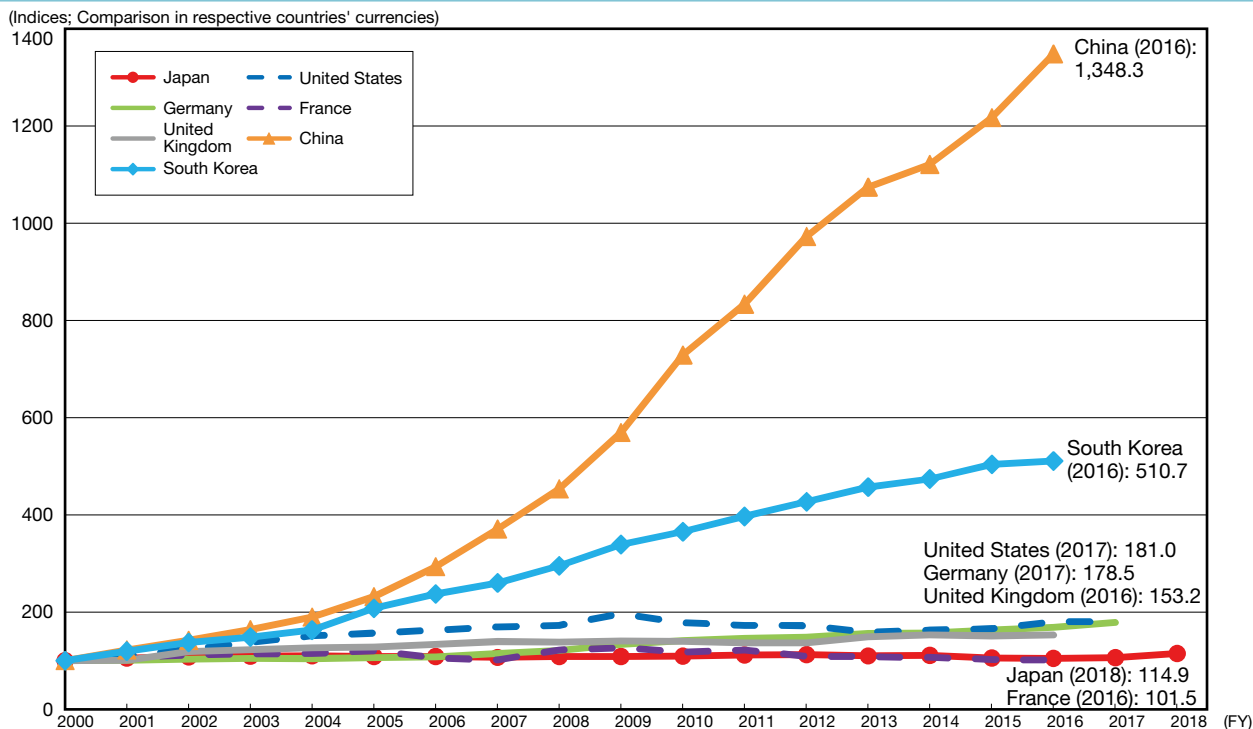
- (1) An asterisk (\*) indicates advanced courses.
- (2) Upper secondary schools, later courses of secondary schools, universities, junior colleges and upper secondary departments of schools for special needs education may have an additional course running for at least one year.
- (3) An integrated center for early childhood education and care is both a school and child welfare facility and admits children who are up to two years old.
- (4) The general courses at specialized training colleges and miscellaneous schools do not have standardized age or other qualification requirements for admission.

**Data 3** Composition of total public expenditure on education as a percentage of total government expenditure (2015)



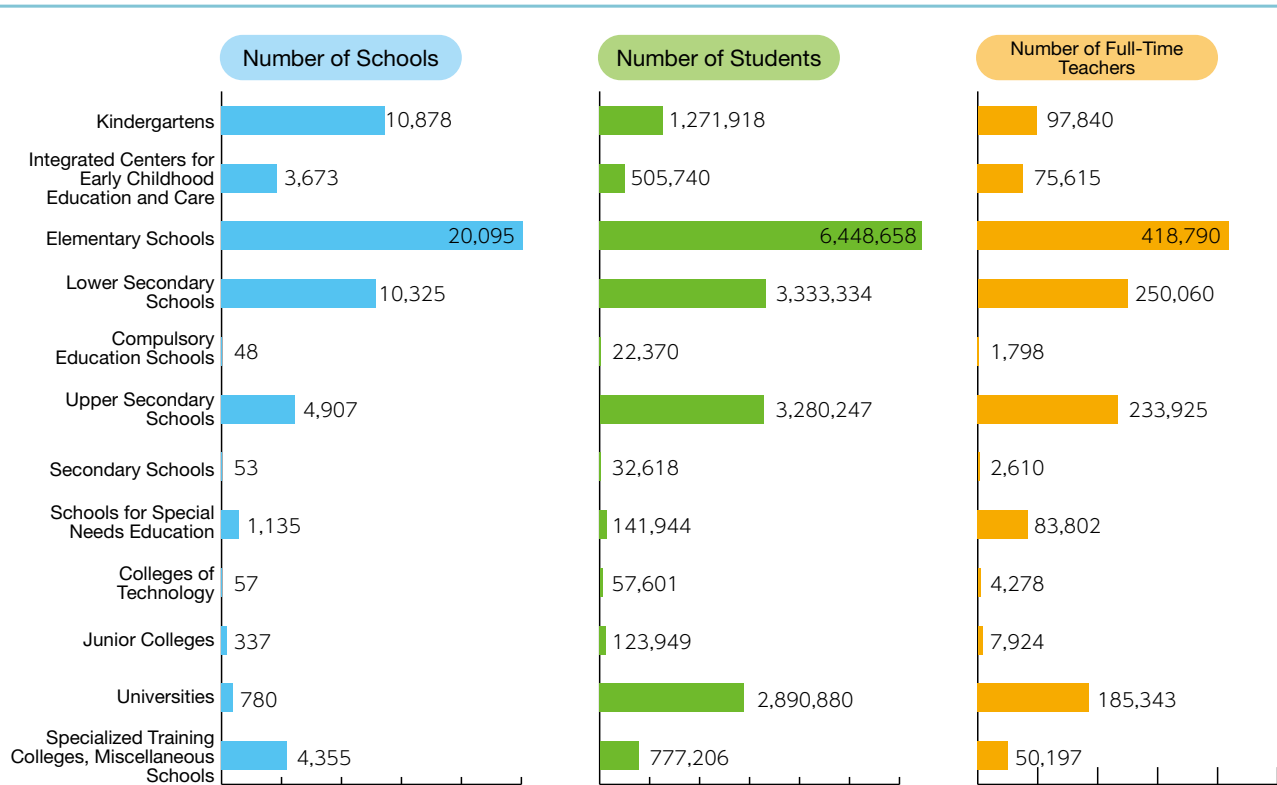
<sup>1</sup> Year of reference 2016. <sup>2</sup> Primary education includes pre-primary programmes. Source) OECD "Education at a Glance 2018"

**Data 4** Trends in Science and Technology Budget per Country Based on FY2000 as 100



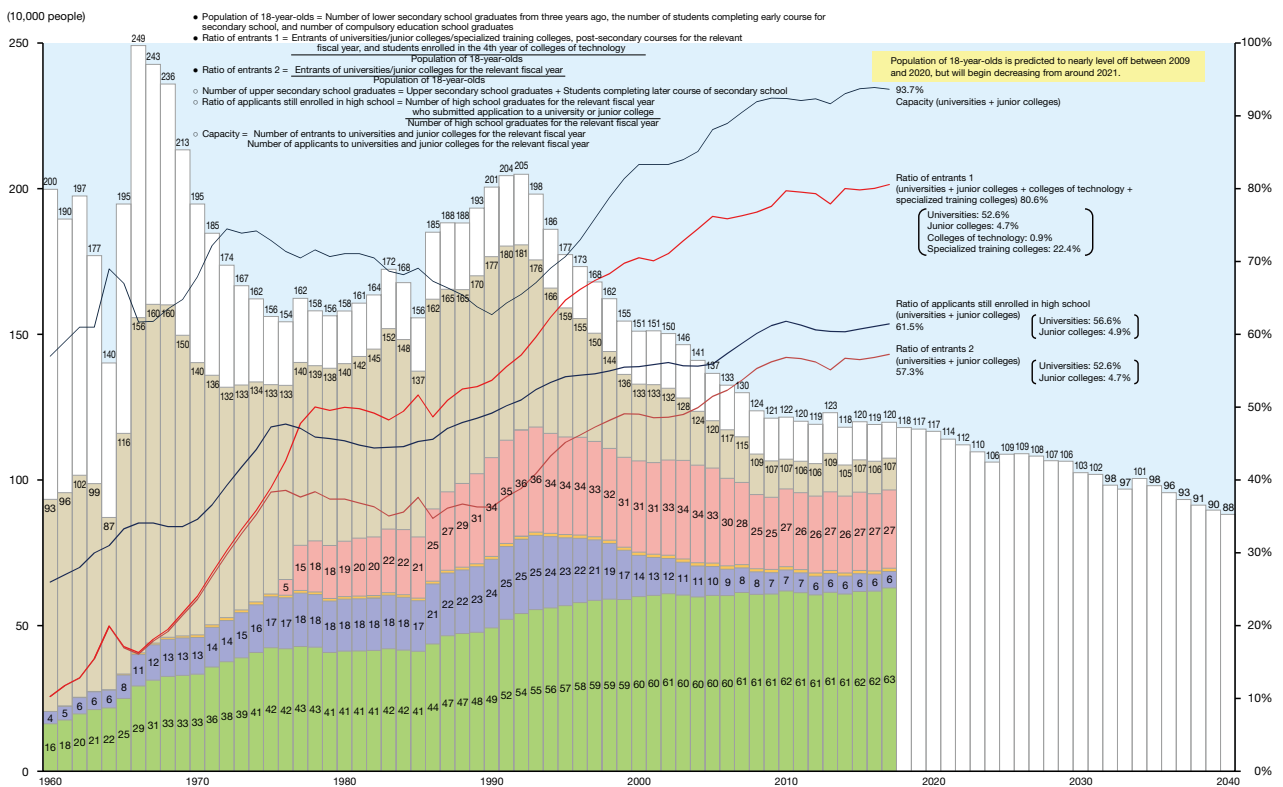
(Notes)  
 (1) Values are calculated based on FY2000 Science and Technology Budgets in respective countries' currencies as 100.  
 (2) Japan changed the budget coverage in FY2001 in light of the formulation of the Science and Technology Basic Plan. The budget for each fiscal year is the initial budget.  
 (3) Values for FY2016 for the United States, Germany and France are provisional.  
 (Sources) Japan: prepared by MEXT based on the data of the Cabinet Office  
 EU: Eurostat database  
 China: Ministry of Science and Technology "China Statistical Yearbook on Science and Technology"  
 Other countries: OECD, Main Science and Technology Indicators, Vol. 2017/6  
 Reference: 27

## Data 5 Number of Schools, Students and Teachers (As of May 1, 2017)



\*Additionally, there are correspondence schools for upper secondary schools, universities and junior colleges. Sources: MEXT, School Basic Survey (FY2017)

## Data 6 Ratio of Population of 18-Year-Olds to Students Entering Higher Educational Institutions



Source: MEXT School Basic Survey

FY2030-FY2040 is based on the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, "Japan's future population estimate (FY2017)" (medium fertility / medium mortality).

\* "Breakdown total" and "Total" enrollment rate in higher education, and ratio of applicants still enrolled in high school may differ in some cases due to rounding the second decimal place.

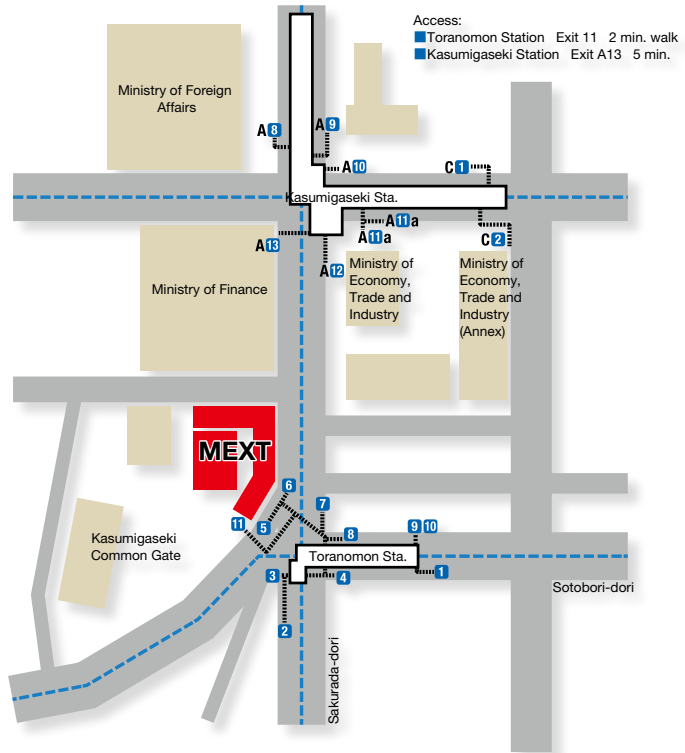
# Introduction of Related Independent Administrative Institutions

Name	Telephone Number	Website Address
National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER)	03 (6733) 6833	<a href="http://www.nier.go.jp/">http://www.nier.go.jp/</a>
National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP)	03 (3581) 2391	<a href="http://www.nistep.go.jp/">http://www.nistep.go.jp/</a>
National Institute for School Teachers and Staff Development (NITS)	029 (879) 6613	<a href="http://www.nits.go.jp/">http://www.nits.go.jp/</a>
National Institute of Special Needs Education (NISE)	046 (839) 6803	<a href="http://www.nise.go.jp/">http://www.nise.go.jp/</a>
National Center for University Entrance Examinations	03 (3468) 3311	<a href="http://www.dnc.ac.jp/">http://www.dnc.ac.jp/</a>
Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)	03 (6743) 6011	<a href="http://www.jasso.go.jp/">http://www.jasso.go.jp/</a>
National Institute of Technology	042 (662) 3120	<a href="http://www.kosen-k.go.jp/">http://www.kosen-k.go.jp/</a>
National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)	042 (307) 1500	<a href="http://www.niad.ac.jp/">http://www.niad.ac.jp/</a>
Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan	03 (3230) 1321	<a href="http://www.shigaku.go.jp/">http://www.shigaku.go.jp/</a>
National Museum of Nature and Science	03 (3822) 0111	<a href="http://www.kahaku.go.jp/">http://www.kahaku.go.jp/</a>
National Institution for Youth Education	03 (3467) 7201	<a href="http://www.niye.go.jp/">http://www.niye.go.jp/</a>
National Women's Education Center of Japan (NWECC)	0493 (62) 6719	<a href="http://www.nwec.jp/">http://www.nwec.jp/</a>
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)	03 (3263) 1722	<a href="http://www.jsps.go.jp/">http://www.jsps.go.jp/</a>
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	048 (226) 5601	<a href="http://www.jst.go.jp/">http://www.jst.go.jp/</a>
RIKEN (Institute of Physical and Chemical Research)	048 (462) 1111	<a href="http://www.riken.jp/">http://www.riken.jp/</a>
National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS)	029 (859) 2000	<a href="http://www.nims.go.jp/">http://www.nims.go.jp/</a>
National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology (QST)	043(382)8001	<a href="http://www.qst.go.jp/">http://www.qst.go.jp/</a>
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)	03(6870)2200	<a href="https://www.amed.go.jp/">https://www.amed.go.jp/</a>
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED)	029 (851) 1611	<a href="http://www.bosai.go.jp/">http://www.bosai.go.jp/</a>
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)	046 (866) 3811	<a href="http://www.jamstec.go.jp/">http://www.jamstec.go.jp/</a>
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)	03 (5289)3650	<a href="http://www.jaxa.jp/">http://www.jaxa.jp/</a>
Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)	029 (282) 1122	<a href="http://www.jaea.go.jp/">http://www.jaea.go.jp/</a>
Japan Sport Council (JSC)	03 (5410) 9124	<a href="http://www.jpnsport.go.jp/">http://www.jpnsport.go.jp/</a>
Japan Arts Council	03 (3265) 7411	<a href="http://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/">http://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/</a>
National Museum of Art	03 (3214) 2561	<a href="http://www.artmuseums.go.jp/">http://www.artmuseums.go.jp/</a>
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage	03 (3822) 1196	<a href="http://www.nich.go.jp/">http://www.nich.go.jp/</a>

# Map and Directory

## [Central Government Building No.7 East Building]

32F	(Board of Audit of Japan)
20F	
19F	
18F	Research and Development Bureau
17F	Research Promotion Bureau
16F	National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP)
15F	Science and Technology Policy Bureau
14F	Higher Education Bureau
13F	Higher Education Bureau, Japan Sports Agency
12F	Minister's Secretariat (Management and Coordination Division, International Affairs Division), Director-General for International Affairs
11F	Minister's Secretariat (Management and Coordination Division)
10F	Minister's Secretariat (Personnel Division, Policy Division)
9F	Education Policy Bureau
8F	Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau
7F	Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau
6F	National Institute for Educational Policy Research
5F	National Institute for Educational Policy Research
4F	Minister's Secretariat (Budget and Accounts Division)
3F	Assembly hall
2F	Entrance
1	



## [The former MEXT Building]


6F	Agency for Cultural Affairs
5F	Agency for Cultural Affairs
4F	Department of Facilities Planning and Disaster Prevention
3F	The Museum of MEXT, Library
2F	
1F	Lounge

**MEXT Website**  
(English)




**MEXT Website**  
(Japanese)



 文部科学省 MEXT (@mextjapan)



 文部科学省 MEXT (@mextjapan)



**◆ Today's Highlight**  
Daily photo and video updates on MEXT activities (updated at any time)



**◆ The Monthly Journal of MEXT**  
MEXT's public relations magazine covering important policies and the latest topics in education, culture, sports, science and technology (published monthly in e-book format)

**A space dedicated to showcasing MEXT's diverse range of activities, from the past and present, through various exhibits and events.**

**Opening Hours:** 10:00 - 18:00  
**Closed:** Sunday, Saturday and holidays  
**Admission:** Free



**The Museum of MEXT**

Minister's Office in 1933 (recreated as it existed in 1933)

# From MEXT to the NEXT



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



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

MEXT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

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