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Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology 2010



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

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

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

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Education

Science & Technology

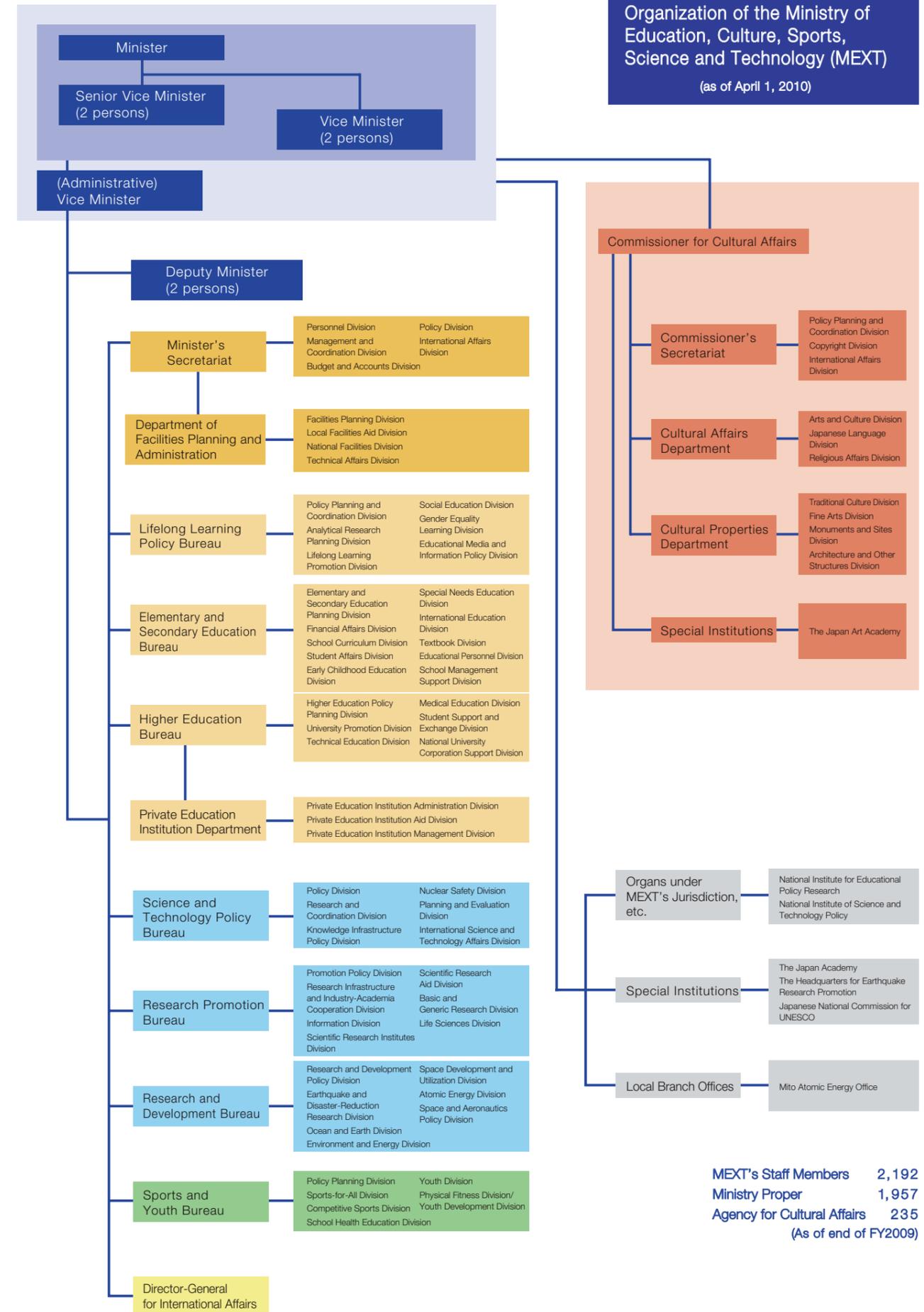
Sports

Culture

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, and Protection of Cultural Properties Committee established (external bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
1956	Science and Technology Agency established (external bureau of the Prime Minister's Office)
1959	Council for Science and Technology Policy established
1961	Sports Promotion Law enacted
1964	Tokyo Olympics held
1968	Agency for Cultural Affairs established (merging of the Protection of Cultural Properties Committee and the Ministry of Education Cultural Affairs Bureau)
1972	Sapporo Olympics held
1984	National Council on Education Reform established (to 1987)
1995	The Science and Technology Basic Law enacted
1996	The First Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2000)
1998	Nagano Olympics held
2000	Basic Plan for the Promotion of Sports formulated (to FY2010)
2001	MEXT established (merging of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture and the Science and Technology Agency) The Second Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2005)
2002	Five-day week system implemented for all schools
2006	The Third Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2010) Revision of the Basic Act on Education enacted
2008	Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education formulated (to FY2012)

Organization of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) (as of April 1, 2010)



MEXT's Staff Members 2,192
 Ministry Proper 1,957
 Agency for Cultural Affairs 235
 (As of end of FY2009)

Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau

From Children to Adults
Aiming to become a society where anyone
can learn and apply what they learn

Policy Planning and Coordination Division

Analytical Research Planning Division

Lifelong Learning Promotion Division

Social Education Division

Gender Equality Learning Division

Educational Media and Information Policy Division

MEXT works to examine the basic direction of education policy by planning and proposing basic policies as well as working to advance education in which schools, families, and communities collaborate, promote libraries, museums, and specialized training colleges, facilitate education and training for gender equality, and add Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to education.

■ Promotion of Educational Reform

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has been promoting educational reform based on the principles of the Basic Act on Education, which was revised in December 2006. In July 2008, the Cabinet decided the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education, which is Japan's first comprehensive educational plan.

The plan shows an educational vision which should be pursued over the next 10 years, and explains measures to be

implemented over a five-year period from FY2008.

Going forward, MEXT will carry out initiatives aimed at realizing "an education-based nation" through the steady implementation of this plan.

■ Realizing Education in which Schools, Families and Communities join together in Cooperation

• Promotion of collaboration among schools, families, and communities

In light of the provisions of Article 13 (Partnership and Cooperation among Schools, Families, and Local Residents) of the Basic Act on Education, it is important for all of society to strive to improve education and to create environments where whole communities are involved in raising children.

Accordingly, MEXT has been promoting measures to realize education in which schools, families, and communities cooperate. These include School Support Regional Headquarters and Program to Promote After-School Classes for Children (After-School Plan for Children) that provide children with experiences and learning in cooperation with people in local communities.



Volunteers read aloud to children
(Narao Region Program to Promote After-School Classes for Children,
Shinkamigoto, Minami-Matsuura-gun, Nagasaki Prefecture)



Classroom support by
local volunteers
(Iwade, Wakayama
Prefecture)

• Improving Educational Functions at Home

MEXT supports voluntary initiatives in local communities so that guardians can receive information, take classes, and have a place to go for consultation. MEXT also promotes the national "Early to Bed, Early to Rise, and Don't Forget Your Breakfast" campaign in collaboration with civic groups in order to improve children's basic lifestyles. The campaign increases public awareness of the importance of basic lifestyles.



"Early to Bed, Early to Rise, and Don't Forget Your Breakfast"
Symbol for the national movement

■ Providing Lifelong Learning Opportunities

In order to improve opportunities for lifelong learning, access to diverse types of learning, such as school education, social education, and home education is necessary. Therefore, MEXT, working to enhance the functions of facilities at the Open University of Japan, through which people can receive university education at home, promotes specialized training colleges that provide practical vocational education, and enhance libraries, museums, and community learning centers as sites for learning. In addition, MEXT administers the upper secondary school equivalency examinations that enable appropriate evaluation and utilize effectively what has been learned and holds the national lifelong learning festivals in order to stimulate individual interest in lifelong learning.

■ Promoting Information-oriented Education

ICT are advancing in all areas of society. It is thus becoming increasingly important for children to acquire the ability to utilize information and respond proactively to the Information Society by using ICT. In addition, it is necessary for teachers to effectively utilize ICT in order to achieve easily understood lessons and work more efficiently. MEXT is therefore actively engaged in introducing ICT into school education. Furthermore, it carries



Display at National Museum of Nature and Science
(Provided by: National Museum of Nature and Science)

out policies to promote the use of ICT in lifelong learning and social education in order to provide the public with diverse opportunities for learning.

Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau

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

- Elementary and Secondary Education Planning Division
- Financial Affairs Division
- School Curriculum Division
- Student Affairs Division
- Early Childhood Education Division
- Special Needs Education Division
- International Education Division
- Textbook Division
- Educational Personnel Division
- School Management Support Division

■ Improvement of Academic Abilities

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

The Courses of Study have generally been revised once every 10 years. The Courses of Study for elementary and lower secondary schools were revised in March 2008 and those for upper secondary schools and schools for special needs education, in March 2009. The new Courses of Study continue to aim to nurture in students "Zest for living" based on the educational principles expressed in the revisions to the Basic Act on Education. The new Courses of Study increase class hours in Japanese language, social studies, mathematics, science, and foreign languages with an emphasis on balancing the attain-

ment of knowledge and skill with thinking capacity, decisiveness, and expressiveness.

To enable the smooth implementation of the new Courses of Study, MEXT also works on initiatives to enhance administrative systems and educational facilities and to ensure the quality and quantity of textbooks.

Since FY2007, MEXT has carried out the National Assessment of Academic Ability in mathematics and Japanese for students in the sixth year of elementary school and the third year of lower secondary school. The results have revealed that there have been challenges in the utilization of knowledge and skills. Educational policies and classroom teaching have been improved based on these results.

■ Improvement of the Quality of Teachers

The success or failure of school education depends greatly on the quality of teachers. It is necessary to improve the quality of teachers through teacher development, employment, and training. Beginning in March 2009, MEXT implemented a system for renewing educational personnel certificates that requires educators to acquire the most advanced knowledge and skills every 10 years.

MEXT encourages boards of education to undertake initiatives in order to accurately assess the abilities and achievements of teachers and appropriately reflect such assessment in assignments, remuneration, and so on. In April 2008, it became mandatory for prefectural boards of education and others with the authority to hire teachers to provide extra training to any teachers whose teaching is found to be inadequate. MEXT therefore promotes fair and appropriate personnel measures to ensure that inadequate teachers do not engage in education.

MEXT has also begun a comprehensive review of policies to improve the quality of teachers, including enhancement of teacher training courses in universities.



MEXT aims to develop education that gives children "Zest for living," including solid academic abilities, rich humanity, and health and physical fitness.

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

Furthermore, MEXT is working on enhancing and improving the teacher training and licensing system in order to secure excellent people as teachers, who hold the key to school education results.

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

• Cultivating richness in mind

Under the March 2008 revision of the Courses of Study for elementary and lower secondary schools, in order to foster rich humanity and socialization in young students, MEXT promotes the enhancement of moral education through steps such as using inspiring course materials and experiential activities. It also promotes reading through "morning reading time" and reading aloud.

• Responding to problem behavior and non-attendance at school

In order to solve problem behavior and non-attendance at school in young students, MEXT is making comprehensive efforts with all kinds of measures

including (1) enhancing emotional education and achieving easy-to-understand lessons and enjoyable schools, (2) improving the quality of teachers, and (3) enhancing the education counseling system.

• Promoting career education

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

■ Improvement of School Management

Improving school management based upon school evaluations and securing enough time for teachers to spend with children, alongside strengthening trust amongst guardians, community members, and schools are key to improving the school environment and raising educational standards. Hence, MEXT has been promoting school management support policies, such as Community Schools (schools which have school management councils), school evaluation, and reduced paperwork.

■ Promotion of Special Needs Education

In order to encourage the independence and social participation of children with disabilities, MEXT is promoting special needs education that would meet their individual educational needs. In April 2007, schools for the blind, for the deaf, and for children with intellectual disability, physical disability, and health impairment were reformed to "Schools for Special Needs Education" that may accept children with several kinds of disabilities as well as better cope with the increase in the number of children with multiple disabilities. It was also legally clarified that in all regular kindergartens, elementary, and lower and upper secondary schools, appropriate education is to be provided for children with disabilities, including those with developmental disabilities.

■ Promotion of Early Childhood Education

Early childhood is a crucial period that builds the base for lifelong character formation. Thus, it is important that every young child is provided with quality pre-school education. MEXT is working to (1) upgrade educational content for kindergartens, etc., through the 2008 revision of the Courses of Study for Kindergartens, (2) alleviate the economic burden for guardians, and (3) enhance support for families and communities during early childhood education. Moreover, MEXT is encouraging the use of a system established in FY2006 called "Centre for early childhood education and care," which provides unified education and childcare, and an Action Program for Pre-School Education Promotion. We will continue to improve and further promote such policies.

■ Promoting International Education

It is necessary to develop people who can act independently with a global point of view in a society that is becoming more international. MEXT is working comprehensively on such measures as (1) enhancing education to deepen international understanding and teach foreign languages, (2) promoting international exchange, (3) enhancing education of Japanese children overseas, and (4) enhancing education for returning Japanese children from overseas and foreign children in Japan.

Higher Education Bureau

Planning promotion of higher education focusing on universities and graduate schools

- Higher Education Policy Planning 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

MEXT is pursuing a variety of policies to promote higher education. MEXT grants permission for the establishment of universities, junior colleges, and colleges of technology, and assures the quality of education through evaluations. It also supports university education reform and fosters the development of high-level professionals. At the same time, it performs administration for selection of students to enter schools, student support, internationalization and student exchange, and invigoration of incorporated national universities. In addition, it promotes private schools through tax incentives, subsidies, and administrative guidance and advice.

■ Promoting Universities and Graduate Schools

• Promotion of policies with a view of the future of university education

Over the past 20 years, the number of Japanese universities has increased by more than 260 (to 773 in FY2009), and the number of students has risen by more than 700,000 (to 2.85 million in FY2009). The percentage of 18-year-olds who enter universities and junior colleges rose from 36 percent to 56 percent. More than half of all Japanese young people now receive a higher education. Universities are no longer places where a few people receive advanced education and training. Today, they are places where the diverse knowledge required to function in 21st-century society is fostered.

However, Japan faces a decline not just in its number of 18-year-olds, but in the size of its overall population. Social systems face a period of transformation both in Japan and abroad. Serious debate on the role of universities during this period is essential.

• Assuring and raising the quality of university education

Universities must respond to the diverse needs of students and society while steadfastly ensuring the quality of university education. As are places where the diverse knowledge required to function in 21st-century society is fostered, universities must first enhance undergraduate education. The Central Council for Education's December 2008 report, "Towards a structure of baccalaureate degree programs," makes clear the capabilities that should be fostered in each undergraduate major. Universities are advancing efforts on overall educational activities by clarifying policies on (1) awarding degrees, (2) composition and implementation of curricula, and (3) admissions.

MEXT works to assure and raise the quality of university education not only by preparing regulations and other systems and securing budgets, but by disseminating outstanding university initiatives to the entire nation.

• Improvement of graduate education

Graduate education fosters the creative human resources that will bring about a knowledge-based society. It is vital to raise the quality of graduate education in Japan and increase its international recognition and reliability.

MEXT provides organizational and systemic support for graduate education. It is actively working to form graduate schools into education and research centers that meet the highest international standards.

• Support for the education reform of national, public and private universities

MEXT supports a variety of efforts to reform universities in a competitive environment through national, public and private universities, with the

objective of invigorating higher education and encouraging excellent education and research activities which utilize each university's individuality and particular characteristics.

In addition, MEXT provides information on these initiatives to society at large through a web site, forums, and the e-mail magazine "University Reform GP Navi: Good Practice."

• Situation of national universities

Since the incorporation of national universities in April 2004, each national university corporation has been utilizing the advantages of being incorporated. Various efforts have been addressed, such as establishment of management structures, revitalization of education research, enhancement of student support, cooperation with industry, promotion of contributions to local communities, and so on.

Beginning in FY2010, the national universities entered the period of their second round of medium-term goals and medium-term plan.

Henceforth, MEXT aims to continue the expansion of the development and revitalization of Japan's national universities by coordinating closely with each institution, since they play a central role in both higher education and academic research.

• Fostering high-level professionals and technicians

Universities train advanced professionals with high-level knowledge and skills based on social needs such as the employment fields of various industries. For example, the medical faculty is working to address the shortage of physicians by increasing their enrollments and training outstanding doctors who want to work in local communities.

Professional graduate schools aim to provide new graduate programs (professional degrees) that specialize in fostering high-level professionals to take leadership roles in all fields of society, as well as active international roles. Graduate law schools, which are institutionalized as the core of the new system to nurture legal professionals, and schools in such fields as business and MOT (Management of Technology) have been established. In FY2008, graduate schools of education were established to provide more practical teacher training at the grad school level. It is hoped that they will become models for teacher training at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Colleges of technology are institutions of higher education that provide specialized education emphasizing consistent experimentation and practical training over five years. These colleges foster practical and creative technicians who represent the backbone of manufacturing.

■ Scholarship Loan Programs

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

The Japan Student Services Organization provides scholarship loan programs for exemplary students who have difficulty in getting education because of financial reasons. The programs offer interest-free loans and long-term low interest-bearing loans. The FY2010 budget for the whole program totaled 1,005.5 billion yen, which would provide 1,180,000 students with scholarship loans.



■ Promotion of Private Schools

Japan's private schools carry out diverse and distinctive educational and research activities in the spirits of their founding. Private schools play an important role in Japanese school education. Today, private schools account for about 80 percent of students at the university and junior college level, 30 percent at the upper secondary school level, and 80 percent at the kindergarten level.

MEXT works to promote private schools so that they operate in a stable and sustained manner centered on their students. MEXT's measures include tax incentives, subsidies focused mainly on operating costs, loans through the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan, administrative guidance, and support for administrative improvement.

■ Promotion of Internationalization of Universities and Student Exchange

For universities that aim to foster outstanding human resources in the globalizing society, internationalization of universities such as accepting international students and researchers, and encouraging Japanese students to study abroad, as well as building cooperation with foreign universities, is indispensable to enhance their education and research as well as international understanding.

As of May 2009, there were about 133,000 foreign students studying in Japanese institutions of higher education. In 2006, around 76,000 Japanese citizens went to various countries around the world to study.

As of October 2007, there were about 13,000 exchange agreements between Japanese and foreign universities. Many universities have constructed organized and continuous educational cooperation by collaborating with foreign universities on double degree programs and so on.

MEXT, aiming to contribute to fostering both Japanese and foreign students who will lead the Asian region, supports universities promoting internationalization and international student exchange.

Science and Technology Policy Bureau

Creating a System to Promote Science and Technology



MEXT is planning and designing the basic policies to promote science and technology. It intends to develop human resources in science and technology from students to lead researchers and engineers and strategically promotes international activities and the promotion of science and technology in regions.

In addition, it is engaged in ensuring the safety of radiation and nuclear energy.

■ Plan and Proposal for Basic Policies Regarding Science and Technology

MEXT comprehensively promotes science and technology, based on the Third Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY2006 to FY2010). In addition, the Council for Science and Technology was established with the objective of researching and discussing important aspects of promoting science and technology. It broadly deliberates matters such as study for the Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan, R&D based on the current Plan, and systems for promoting academic research.

Furthermore, it is conducting such activities as building a research and development evaluation system, managing special coordination funds for promoting science and technology to adjust overall promotion of important items based on policies of the Council for Science and Technology Policy, and creating world-class research centers.

■ Research and Coordination on Science and Technology Policy

MEXT creates the annual report on the promotion of science and technology (White Paper on Science and Technology) in accordance with the Science and Technology Basic Law and surveys and analyzes trends in science and technology in Japan and overseas.

■ Developing Human Resources in Science and Technology

In order to be a world leader in science and technology even with its population decreasing, it is extremely important for Japan to foster and secure human resources in science and technology and promote their activities. MEXT is therefore working on comprehensive human resources development measures spanning everyone from children to leading researchers and engineers. MEXT is doing this by developing the talents of young children, broadening the horizons of children who like science, fostering environments where diverse people including young, female, and foreign researchers can exercise their abilities, and promoting a professional engineer system.



Japanese medal winners at the 20th International Biology Olympiad 2009 (IBO 2009 Tsukuba)
(Photo: The 20th International Biology Olympiad Organizing Committee)

■ Strategic Promotion of International Activities

MEXT promotes bilateral international cooperation on science and technology with various countries as well as cooperation with international organizations. In response to the appearance of global problems, it promotes international research exchanges and joint research from the perspective of "science and technology diplomacy" that links Japan's outstanding science and technology to foreign policy. Furthermore, it promotes the dispatch of Japanese researchers overseas and the acceptance of foreign researchers in Japan as part of the world's "brain circulation."



Improving Sustainable Water and Sanitation Systems in Sahel region in Africa: Case of Burkina Faso, Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)

■ Promotion of Science and Technology in Regions

The promotion of science and technology in Regions contributes to creating vital regions furthermore, enhancing the sophistication and diversification of science and technology of Japan as a whole, and the competitive edge.

MEXT supports the formation of clusters for the creation of sustained regional innovation through industry-academia-government collaboration centered around local universities.

■ Ensuring the Safety of Radiation and Nuclear Energy

Radiation and nuclear energy are not used only to generate electricity. They are also used for applications such as semiconductor manufacture and medical irradiation. Ensuring safety is the first premise of research, development, and use of radiation and nuclear energy. Based on the law, MEXT enforces strict safety regulations on the use of research and

test reactors, radioactive isotopes, and so on through inspections and examinations of facility designs. It also implements measures against nuclear accidents surveys environmental radiation.

Research Promotion Bureau

Promoting Basic Research in Universities, and Science and Technology which Corresponds to Policy Issues

- Promotion Policy Division
- Research Infrastructure and Industry-Academia Cooperation Division
- Information Division
- Scientific Research Institutes Division
- Scientific Research Aid Division
- Basic and Generic Research Division
- Life Sciences Division

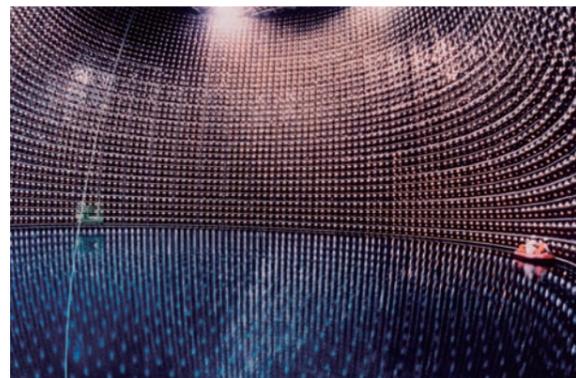
■ Promotion of Basic Research

Basic research stemming from the free ideas of researchers is based on spontaneity and creativity. Through the creation of new knowledge, it contributes to the expansion of intellectual assets shared by all humanity. MEXT therefore works to promote academic research at sites such as universities and inter-university research institutes through secure mechanisms to support basic costs and enhancing Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research. Large-scale, unique, and advanced basic research that inspires people with hopes and dreams, such as neutrino research seeking clues to the origin of the universe and accelerator-based scientific research aimed at discovering the ultimate structure of matter is being carried out at universities and inter-university research institutes.

Basic research plays an important role in social and economic development through the creation of innovation. In addition to goal-oriented research funded through competitive grants such as Basic Research Programs, MEXT promotes research aimed at achieving policy goals including the development of innovative environmental technologies at independent administrative institutions for research and development such as RIKEN.

■ Enhancing and Equipping the Research and Development Infrastructure

Research and development infrastructure, such as advanced research equipment and facilities, research materials, databases and other intellectual infrastructure, and information infrastructure, is essential to creative and unique research and development activities. MEXT therefore prepares advanced large-scale research facilities such as the large synchrotron radiation facility (SPring-8), the X-ray free electron laser (XFEL; scheduled to begin operating in 2011), the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC), and innovative high-performance computing infrastructure including construction of the Next-Generation Supercomputer (due to be completed in 2012) and opens them to a variety of researchers. In addition, MEXT works to strategically develop advanced measurement and analysis technology and equipment, bio-resources and some other items, and enhance systems for the transmission and comprehensive distribution of science and technology information.



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



The large synchrotron radiation facility, SPring-8 (circular facility at right)
The X-ray free electron laser (XFEL; linear facility at left)
(Provided by: Japan Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute, RIKEN)



Conceptual drawing of the Next-Generation Supercomputer facility
(Provided by: RIKEN)

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

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

In addition, it promotes industry-academia-government cooperation, strengthens intellectual property strategies, and develops research infrastructure such as research equipment.

■ Promotion of Research and Development in Important Fields

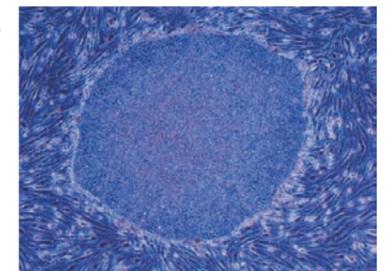
The life sciences are expected to contribute to the realization of long healthy lives for the Japanese people, responses to contagious diseases such as new strains of influenza, and solutions to food and environmental problems. MEXT is addressing research and development of new treatment methods such as stem cell/regenerative medicine research including iPS cell research and innovative drugs and medical devices.

In addition, it is formulating and administering regulations and guidelines to appropriately respond to the issues of bioethics and biosafety in the life sciences field.

From daily life to industrial applications, information and communication technology is important infrastructure that has brought changes to many social and economic activities. MEXT takes a medium-term perspective as it prioritizes research and development on leading international technologies. In concrete terms, this includes research and development of technologies to enable effective use of computing resources and large-scale databases, such as construction of innovative high-performance computing infrastructure, as well as innovative devices that contribute to energy conservation.

In nanotechnology, atoms and molecules are manipulated at the nanometer scale (one billionth of a meter) to create completely new functions in materials. In the nanotechnology and materials field, MEXT strategically promotes basic and advanced research and development as well as R&D with the prospect of application.

MEXT promotes quantum beam technology and photon science that use equipment such as accelerators and lasers to generate, control, and utilize electromagnetic, neutron, electron, and ion beams. They are expected to contribute in a wide range of fields, from basic research to industrial applications.



Successful generation of iPS cells from human skin
(Provided by: Professor Shinya Yamanaka, Kyoto University)

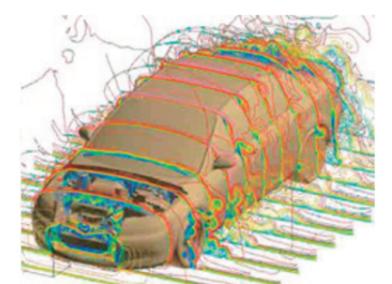


Image of a simulation made possible by the Next-Generation Supercomputer Project (Development of low-drag, low-vibration vehicle)
(Provided by: Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo)

■ Promotion of Industry-Academia-Government Cooperation

Promotion of industry-academia-government cooperation is essential for bringing the fruits of university research to society and for the revitalization of university education and research. MEXT is working to strengthen industry-academia-government cooperation and place coordinators in order to create an environment in which universities can independently participate in such cooperation. It also actively provides assistance for joint research by universities and businesses and for practical application of research results and specialist support regarding technology transfer and intellectual property.



An example of successful joint university-industry research: the world's first new variety (a Surfina rose) developed by mutation caused at the RI Beam Factory
(Provided by: Suntory Flowers, Ltd.)

Research and Development Bureau

MEXT conducts large-scale research and development in fields such as space, nuclear power, oceans, environment and energy, and earthquakes and disaster prevention.



MEXT promotes research and development to address social problems such as environment and energy issues and earthquakes and disaster prevention. It promotes R&D on a national scale in the space, nuclear energy, and Antarctic/deep sea fields. This includes rockets and satellites, the nuclear fuel cycle and energy from nuclear fusion, and Antarctic observation and deep-sea exploration.

Promoting Research and Development in Aerospace

Development and utilization of space capability play a pivotal role in establishing the basis for Japan's existence as a nation, by means of realizing better quality of life of the people, encouraging industry through satellite-based applications such as telecommunications, broadcasting, positioning/navigation/timing (PNT), weather forecasting, and earth observation, and bringing new knowledge through space science research. Furthermore, accomplishment in space activities gives a dream to a child. Therefore, it is essential for the nation to develop and utilize space capability. Also, pursuit of advanced technologies in aeronautics is very important in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the Japanese aviation industry and to reduce CO2 emissions because aircrafts are indispensable for our daily life.

Based upon lessons learnt from past accidents and failures, Japan has taken measures to realize a launching system with higher reliability than the global standard. The H-IIA launch vehicle has been successfully launched ten consecutive times in recent years. And in 2009, Japan managed to successfully launch an H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV), which carries cargo to the International Space Station, with H-IIB launch vehicle. Besides the above, MEXT prioritizes the measures listed below:

- Promoting research and development of space transportation systems, such as the national primary launching vehicle, in order to maintain and ensure the autonomy in launching satellites and other spacecraft whenever necessary;

- Promoting the construction of satellite-based observation and surveillance system that may contribute to observation of the global environment, disaster monitoring, communications, and positioning/navigation/timing;
- Promoting comprehensive utilization of the space environment through the International Space Station and other space assets;
- Promoting space science research at the highest level in the world, such as space exploration in unexplored regions and the solar system;
- Promoting research and development in aviation science and technology in response to social demands such as passenger safety and environmental compliance.



Launch of the H-IIB test flight
(Provided by: JAXA)

Promoting Research and Development in the Field of Nuclear Energy

Premised first on ensuring safety, MEXT steadily promotes research and development on nuclear power that is prioritized as policy-oriented subject.

- To ensure a stable energy supply over the long term, MEXT promotes research and development on projects such as the prototype fast breeder reactor Monju that aims to establish the nuclear fuel cycle.
- We promote cutting-edge nuclear energy science and technology such as nuclear fusion which is hoped to become energy sources in the future and quantum beam technology etc.
- We promote policies to support sustained development in the communities where nuclear facilities are located and to assist initiatives on training nuclear energy experts and education related to energy and nuclear power.
- We promote efforts to ensure non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy through safeguards, cooperation with other countries, and so on.



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

Promoting Research and Development in the Environment and Energy Field

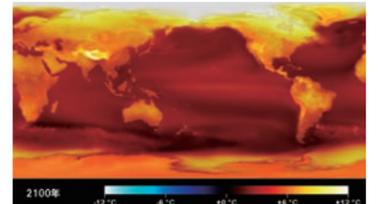
In order to address climate change problem including global warming, MEXT promotes research and development aiming for building a "low-carbon society," which enables sustained economic development while continually cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

- MEXT promotes research and development on advanced technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- It promotes research on highly accurate climate change prediction using a super computer which is named "Earth Simulator" and research and development on adaptation to environmental changes expected to accompany climate change.
- Aiming toward the realization of energy from nuclear fusion, it promotes the ITER project, Broader Approach (BA) activities, and advanced research and development on nuclear energy.

Promoting Research and Development in the Oceans and the Earth Field

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

- It promotes observations to gain a comprehensive understanding of the earth such as oceanographic observation using research vessels and buoys, Antarctic Observation Programs, and satellite observation.
- Japan and the U.S. lead the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), using deep-sea drilling vessels such as Chikyu to drill on the deep sea floor to elucidate global environmental changes, seismogenic mechanisms and the deep biosphere.



Predicted global warming in 2100
(Provided by: Center for Climate System Research, University of Tokyo; National Institute for Environmental Studies; and Frontier Research Center for Global Change, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology)



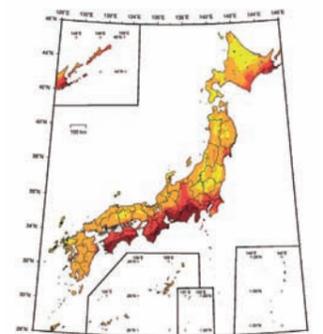
Deep-sea drilling vessel Chikyu
(Provided by: Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology)

Promotion of Research and Development for Earthquake and Disaster Prevention Studies

Japan is located in an area prone to frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and typhoons. MEXT promotes research and development intended to mitigate the damage from such disasters.

Regarding earthquakes, MEXT proposes policies for the promotion of research and carries out research on improving accuracy in predicting the probability of earthquake occurrence and size and better understanding the mechanisms of earthquakes. It is also engaged in a large-scale observation and research project regarding earthquakes that occur directly under the Tokyo area.

Regarding disaster prevention, promotes a variety of research and development regarding disaster prevention science and technology related to natural disasters. This includes use of the full-scale shaking table E-Defense.



Probabilities of ground motion equal to or larger than seismic intensity 6 Lower, occurring within the next 30 years
(Provided by: Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion)

Sports and Youth Bureau

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

- Policy Planning Division
- Sports-for-All Division
- Competitive Sports Division
- School Health Education Division
- Youth Division
- Physical Fitness Division / Youth Development Division

MEXT is working to promote sports, including developing an environment where people can practice sports, enhancing the performance of top-level athletes such as Olympian, improving children's fitness, and enhancing school physical education.

In addition, it is promoting policies to protect children's health and safety, such as ensuring children's safety at school, school health, and food education. Furthermore, it is promoting nature hands-on activities and reading activities to foster health in youth.

Promoting Sports

Sport is a common culture throughout the world that makes people's lives richer and fuller. The promotion of sports leads to the creation of bright and rich lives for citizens and the sound development of people's minds and bodies.

MEXT is working on fostering comprehensive community sports clubs where everyone from children to the aged can participate according to their interests and goals in order to achieve a lifelong sports society, in which anyone can practice sports at any time, anywhere, and at any stage of their lives. It is also working on measures to improve the physical fitness of children.

The great performances by Japan's top-level athletes at international meets such as the Olympic Games give dreams and excitement to many people. MEXT works to enhance the performance of our top-level athletes through support such as equipping national training centers, supporting sports science, medical science, and relevant information, and assisting sport organizations.



The Japanese team at the 2009 World Baseball Classic (Photo: Nippon Professional Baseball)

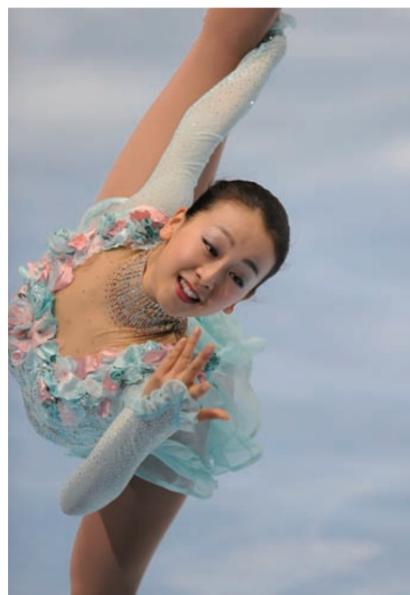
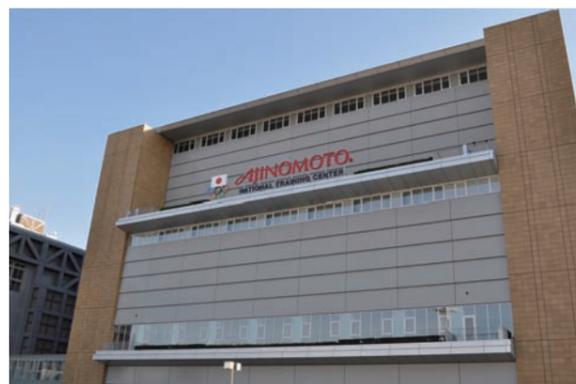


Figure skater Mao Asada (Photo: Atsushi Tomura / Aifo Sport)



Ajinomoto National Training Center

Enhancement of School Health Education

It is important to undertake initiatives relating to school safety, food education, school lunches, and school health in order to raise children with healthy minds and bodies.

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

In light of disordered dietary lifestyles and health issues affecting children's mental and physical states, MEXT is promoting food-related instruction in schools led by nutrition teachers (i.e. food education). In addition, it is promoting all kinds of responses to problems revolving around children's health, including instruction and health education about such matters as smoking and drinking, drug abuse, sex, and allergy diseases.



School safety volunteers leaving school with children

Promoting Sound Development of Youth

In order to foster richness of mind and socialization of youth, MEXT is implementing a variety of nature experience and other hands-on activities, supporting training instructors, providing opportunities for youths to join pioneering hands-on activities at national youth education facilities, and supporting international exchange activities and hands-on activities for children provided by citizens' groups.

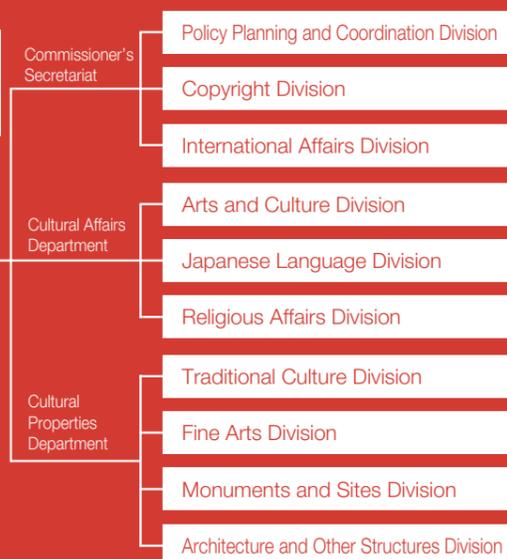
In addition, MEXT is promoting countermeasures against harmful environments in cooperation with relevant government ministries and agencies and other institutions to prevent youths from becoming involved in crime through illegal or harmful information on the internet. Furthermore, MEXT is working on educational campaigns that highlight the importance of reading, centering around Children's Reading Day (April 23), and making efforts to upgrade environments, so that children will voluntarily get involved in reading activities.



Working together! Cutter training.

Agency for Cultural Affairs

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



The Agency implements a variety of policies on the promotion of culture and the arts in order to enhance Japan’s “Power of Culture.” To that end, it helps to foster artists and related personnel to nurture artistic activities. At the same time, it promotes regional culture, the preservation and utilization of cultural properties such as national treasures and historic sites, international cultural exchange, copyright protection and exploitation of works, the improvement and spread of the Japanese language, and Japanese classes for foreigners. It also does work related to religion.

Basic Direction

On February 9, 2007, the Basic Policy for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts (Second Basic Policy) was decided stipulated at a Cabinet approval meeting. This formulated the basic direction to undertake in culture and the arts in order for the

promotion of the arts and the protection of cultural and artistic properties. Here, at the Agency for Cultural Affairs, we aim to carry out measures in accordance with this policy for nation-building to achieve a nation focused on culture and the arts.

Promotion of Art and Culture

Art and culture play a very important role. They enrich people’s lives by moving and exciting them, while invigorating and empowering society as a whole.

In order to promote art and culture in Japan, the Agency for Cultural Affairs supports creative performing arts such as opera and ballet, assists local cultural activities, fosters leading artists, and promotes opportunities for children to experience arts and culture.

The Agency also works to promote media arts such as films and animation.



Children experiencing art and culture

Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties

Cultural properties are precious national assets that have been created and cultivated during 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 national government designates, selects, and registers important items or places as National Treasures, Important Cultural Properties, Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, Natural Monuments, etc. While the government places certain restrictions on changing the existing conditions and exportation of cultural properties, it also takes measures 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, etc. The government is also taking steps to utilize cultural properties, such as by subsidizing the establishment of facilities for opening cultural properties to the public and expanding opportunities to appreciate cultural properties at exhibitions and other events.



Kenroku-en, Special Scenic Beauty (Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture)

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

Promoting International Cultural Exchange and International Cooperation

Promotion of international exchanges and cooperation related to art and culture aids the development of such activities in Japan while contributing to their development worldwide as well.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs makes Japan’s wonderful culture known all over the world through initiatives such as sending specialists in culture as Special Advisors for Cultural Exchange, promoting international cultural exchange through art exchange, and holding international exhibits of antiquities.

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. It also works to register Japan’s cultural heritage as UNESCO World Heritage sites and Intangible Cultural Assets.



A hands-on art class with a Special Advisor for Cultural Exchange in Vienna

Copyright Policies that Respond 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 copyrights, and implements various policies to promote smooth use and distribution of works.



International cooperation at the remains of the Prambanan Temple Compounds in Indonesia

Furthermore, it responds to international issues by strengthening countermeasures against pirated goods circulated overseas and participating in international rule making on copyrights.

Promotion of Policies on the Japanese Language and Japanese Classes

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

In addition, with the increased number of foreign nationals in Japan and growing international interest in studying Japanese, MEXT promotes Japanese classes for foreigners.

Administration of Religious Affairs

The Agency is in charge of administrative affairs related to certification of religious juridical persons based on the Religious Juridical Persons Act, collects materials pertaining to religion, and administers the religious juridical persons system appropriately.

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

MEXT's helmsman

Minister's Secretariat

The Minister's Secretariat has comprehensive responsibility for coordinating MEXT's overall policies. In addition to general management functions such as personnel, general affairs and accounting, it performs overall administration such as policy evaluation, information disclosure, public relations, information processing, administering international relations, and international assistance cooperation.

- Personnel Division
- Management and Coordination Division
- Budget and Accounts Division
- Policy Division
- International Affairs Division

Director-General for International Affairs

Contact for International Exchange and Cooperation

Director-General for International Affairs

As the international contact point for MEXT, it promotes exchange activities and cooperative projects with a variety of countries. As the contact point in Japan for activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), an organization that pursues international peace, it works on the spread of education, scientific cooperation, the preservation of cultural heritages through UNESCO, and other business of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. It also undertakes activities to promote the UNESCO Associated Schools Project (ASP) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which are one of the UNESCO's priorities.



General assembly of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO



UNESCO Children's Performing Arts Festival of East Asia

Aiming for safe, secure, and rich educational facilities

Minister's Secretariat

Department of Facilities Planning and Administration

- Facilities Planning Division
- Local Facilities Aid Division
- National Facilities Division
- Technical Affairs Division

Aiming for safe, secure, and rich educational facilities, the Department of Facilities Planning and Administration promotes improvement in earthquake resistance of school facilities, eco-schools, crime and accident prevention measures, and barrier-free facilities. It establishes Guidelines for Designing Educational Facilities. Furthermore, it promotes enhancement of national university campuses to support educational and research activities.

Promoting Improvement in Earthquake Resistance of School and Upgrade for Eco-schools

It is extremely important to ensure the safety of school facilities where students spend most of the day and at the same time serve as temporary evacuation centers for local residents in case of disasters such as earthquakes. MEXT therefore works toward the end of making schools earthquake resistant as quickly as possible. So that the making of schools earthquake resistant proceeds appropriately, it uses national governments subsidies to reinforce earthquake resistance projects. Regarding public elementary and lower secondary schools that are in danger of collapse in earthquakes, MEXT supports upgrading those with the lowest earthquake resistant on a first priority. Global environmental issues are urgent problems in terms of humanity's future survival and prosperity. MEXT therefore promotes the upgrading of school facilities to reduce environmental burdens and harmonize with nature. It also promotes eco-schools to utilize as educational tools and making schools into centers for transmission of global environment and energy education.



Attractive educational spaces where students can learn through research



Utilizing a school's rooftop solar panels as an educational tool

Promoting of Facility Improvement at National Universities and Other Educational and Research Infrastructure

Facilities of national universities and other higher educational institutions are important bases for the development of creative human resources, creative and cutting-edge academic research and development, and the most advanced medical treatments. MEXT drew up the Second Five-Year Program for Emergency Renovation and Building of Facilities of National Universities (FY2006-FY2010), which targets facilities that should be urgently improved and promotes prioritized and systematic improvement of the facilities for national universities. This program promotes reconstructing the deteriorated facilities as the highest priority, combined with eliminating overcrowded facilities, along with the systematic improvement of university hospitals. MEXT is also further promoting system reforms such as proper facilities management for effective and flexible use of facilities and facilities improvement through cooperation with the private sector and local governments. In addition to earthquake resistance and reconstructing of aged facilities, MEXT is examining new program based on global warming and other policy issues.



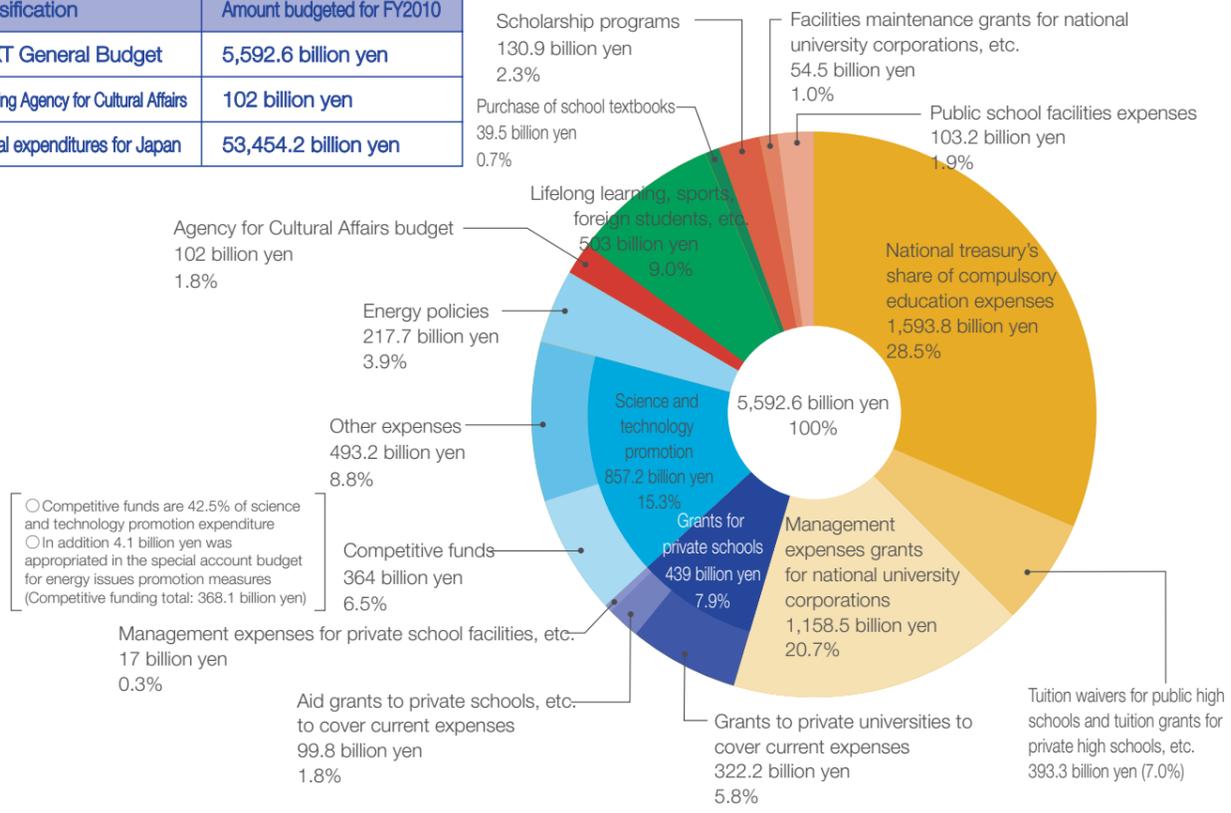
Ensuring safe and secure educational and research facilities



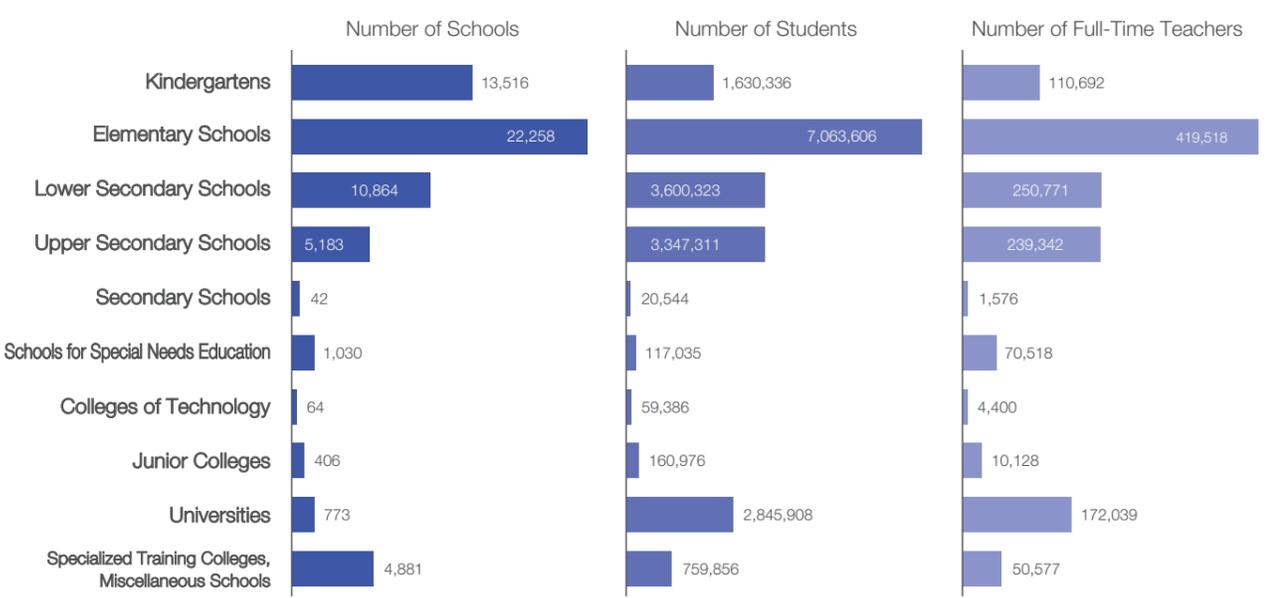
Advanced research environments

Data 1 : MEXT's General Budget for FY2010

Classification	Amount budgeted for FY2010
MEXT General Budget	5,592.6 billion yen
Including Agency for Cultural Affairs	102 billion yen
Annual expenditures for Japan	53,454.2 billion yen

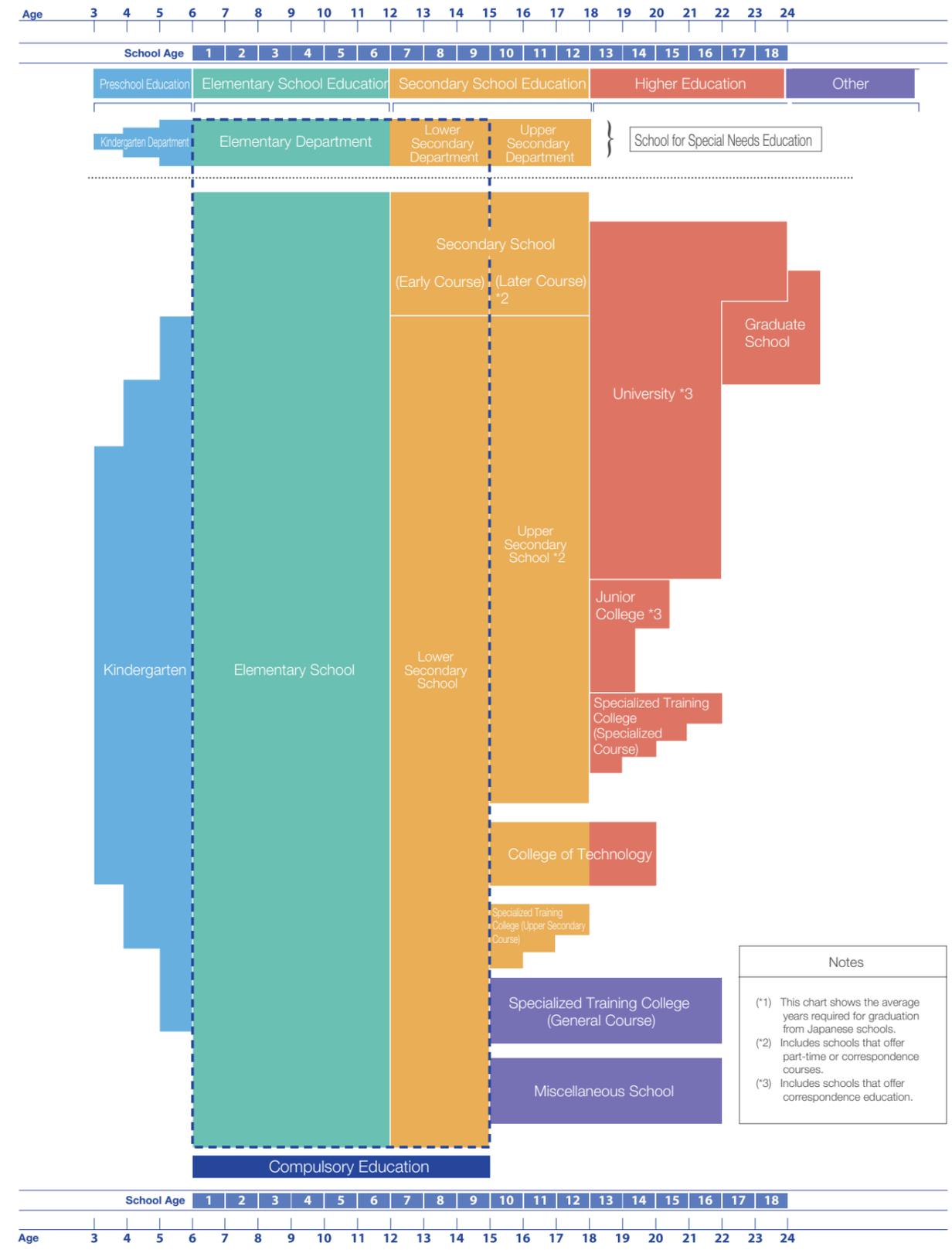


Data 2 : Number of Schools, Students and Teachers (As of May 1, 2009)



* There are correspondence schools for upper secondary schools, universities and junior colleges in addition to these.
Data: FY2009 School Basic Survey

Data 3 : Japanese School Systems



Notes

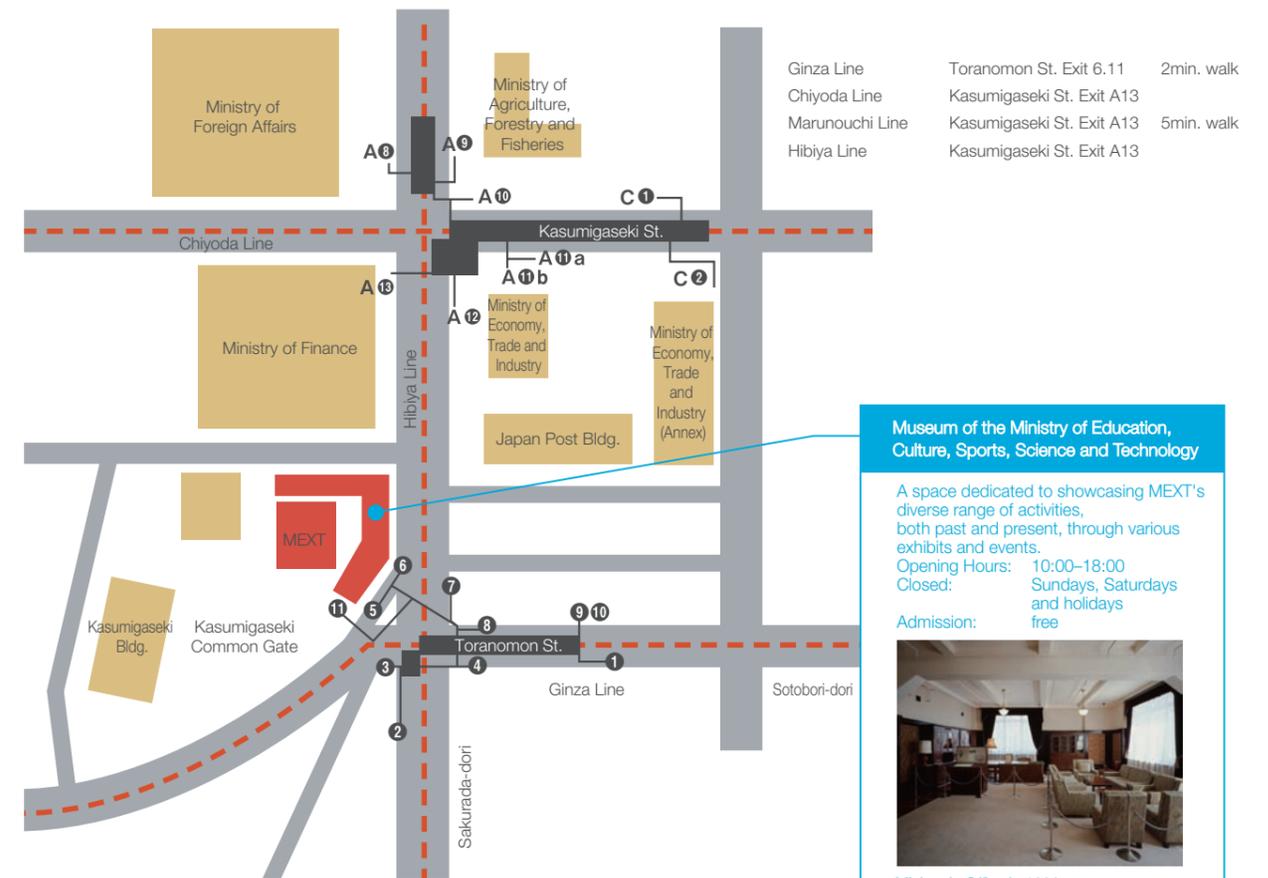
(*1) This chart shows the average years required for graduation from Japanese schools.
(*2) Includes schools that offer part-time or correspondence courses.
(*3) Includes schools that offer correspondence education.

Introduction of Related Independent Administrative Institutions

Name	Telephone Number	Website Address
National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER)	03 (6733) 6833	http://www.nier.go.jp/
National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP)	03 (3581) 2391	http://www.nistep.go.jp/
National Institute of Special Needs Education (NISE)	046 (839) 6803	http://www.nise.go.jp/
National Center for Teacher's Development (NCTD)	029 (879) 6613	http://www.nctd.go.jp/
National Center for University Entrance Examinations	03 (3468) 3311	http://www.dnc.ac.jp/
National Institute for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)	042 (307) 1500	http://www.niad.ac.jp/
Center for National University Finance and Management (CUFM)	03 (4212) 6000	http://www.zam.go.jp/
Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)	03 (6743) 6011	http://www.jasso.go.jp/
Institute of National Colleges of Technology, Japan	042 (662) 3120	http://www.kosen-k.go.jp/
The Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools in Japan	03 (3230) 1321	http://www.shigaku.go.jp/
National Women's Education Center, of Japan (NVEC)	0493 (62) 6711	http://www.nwec.jp/
National Museum of Nature and Science	03 (3822) 0111	http://www.kahaku.go.jp/
National Institution for Youth Education	03 (3467) 7201	http://www.niye.go.jp/
National Agency for the Advancement of Sports and Health (NAASH)	03 (5410) 9124	http://www.naash.go.jp/
National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS)	029 (859) 2000	http://www.nims.go.jp/
National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS)	043 (206) 3004	http://www.nirs.go.jp/
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED)	029 (851) 1611	http://www.bosai.go.jp/
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)	03 (6266) 6400	http://www.jaxa.jp/
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)	03 (3263) 1722	http://www.jsp.s.go.jp/
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)	048 (226) 5601	http://www.jst.go.jp/
RIKEN (The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research)	048 (462) 1111	http://www.riken.jp/
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)	046 (866) 3811	http://www.jamstec.go.jp/
National Museum of Art	03 (3214) 2561	http://www.artmuseums.go.jp/
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage	03 (3822) 1111	http://www.nich.go.jp/
Japan Arts Council	03 (3265) 7411	http://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/
Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)	029 (282) 1122	http://www.jaea.go.jp/

Floor Directory

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



Museum of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

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

Opening Hours: 10:00-18:00
 Closed: Sundays, Saturdays and holidays
 Admission: free

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

○ MEXT's homepage:(Computer version) <http://www.mext.go.jp/> (Cell phone version) <http://keitai.mext.go.jp/>