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The National Science Foundation's Tokyo Regional Office periodically reports on developments in Japan that are related to the Foundation's mission. It also provides occasional reports on developments in other East Asian countries.

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Competitive Research Grant Funds in Japan As of April 2008

This report, prepared by Kazuko Shinohara (kshinoha@nsf.gov) of NSF Tokyo Regional Office, is to take a look at Japanese research grant programs.

In April 2008 the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) posted on its Homepage (<http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/06ichiran.pdf>) a list of all the competitive research grant programs to be funded in JFY2008 (April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009) by the Japanese government. The table below is a translated version of the original list, which was published only in Japanese, with some additional information obtained from funding agencies. Foreign institutions are not eligible to apply to any of the programs, although many encourage international participation. For example, the yellow-highlighted programs (WPI and Global COE programs) specifically require participation of foreign researchers in the projects. CSTP updates the list from time to time when new programs are added. Nevertheless, the current list illustrates Japanese government's science and technology priorities and overall funding activities. Also, it may be of use for U.S. scientists looking for Japanese partners to collaborate.

Abbreviations used in the Table

Abbreviation	Full Name
CAO	Cabinet Office
MIC	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
NICT	National Institute of Information and Communication Technology
FA	Fire Agency
MEXT	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
JSPS	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
JST	Japan Science and Technology Agency
MHLW	Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare
NIBIO	National Institute of Biomedical Innovation
NARO	National Agriculture and Food Research Organization
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
BRAIN	Bio-oriented Technology Research Advancement Institution
METI	Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry
NEDO	New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization
JOGMEC	Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation
MLIT	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
JRTT	Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency
MOE	Ministry of the Environment

TABLE: Competitive Research Grant Programs in Japan as of April 2008

Ministry	Funding organization	Program name (provisional translation)	The applicants need to be affiliated with the Japanese institutions, unless otherwise mentioned	Grant period and amount per year per project (M: Million; B: Billion)	Application period to start the program in JFY2008	WEB
CAO	CAO	Food Safety Evaluation Technologies	Universities and research institutions	Up to Yen 40M for up to 3 years	12/26/07-2/8/08	http://www.fsc.go.jp/english/index.html
MIC	MIC	Strategic Information & Communications R&D Promotion Program (SCOPE)	Private companies, universities, public research institutions	ICT Innovation Creation: Up to Yen 20M for up to 3 years	10/1/07-10/31/07	http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho-tsusin/scope/
				ICT Innovation Promotion: Up to Yen 50M for up to 3 years		
				Young ICT Researcher Fostering: A: Yen 5-10M for up to 3 years; B: Up to Yen 6M for up to 3 years		
				Local Area ICT Promotion: Up to Yen 10M for up to 2 years		
				International Competitiveness Strengthening: Up to Yen 30M for up to 3 years		
MIC	NICT	Frontier technology to develop new communication/broadcasting business	Venture companies	Frontier Technology-type R&D: Up to Yen 30M (for any application) and Yen 40M (for application for industry-University cooperation and Important Technologies fields) for up to 3 years	One month from late-March 08	http://www2.nict.go.jp/q/q266/s807/index.html
				International Cooperative Research: To be determined		
				R&D on Communication/Broadcasting Services for Elderly/Handicapped: Up to Yen 30M and Yen 40M (for handicapped) OR up to 1/2 of the requested amount (smaller amount is granted) for up to 3 years		
		Industrial key technology research promotion	Private companies	Yen 200M for up to 2 years	Mid-May-Mid-June 08	http://kiban.nict.go.jp
FA		Fire & disaster prevention S&T research promotion	Industry/university/government research institutions, think tank, societies, NGOs	A: Up to Yen 4M for up to 3 years; B: Up to Yen 20M for up to 3 years	12/3/07-1/31/08	http://www.fdma.go.jp/html/seido/181128_boshu.html

MEXT	MEXT	Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology	National/public/private universities, national public research experimental institutions, private companies, independent administrative organizations	Young researcher fostering: About Yen 250M for 5 years	12/25/07-2/25/08	http://www.mext.go.jp/b_m/enu/houdou/19/12/07122122.htm
				Women scientists support: About Yen 50M for 3 years		
				Innovation creation in frontier inter-disciplinary areas: Yen 500M-1B for 10 years		
				Regional development: Establishing centers: Yen 50M for 5 years; International cooperative research: Yen 30M for 3 years for international cooperative research and Yen 50M for 5years for researchers dispatching program		
				S&T cooperation with Asia/Africa: Yen 100M for 5 years		
				Flexible funding to important programs that requires urgency: IPS: About Yen 30M for 1 year life Science and Society: About Yen 30M for 2 years		
MEXT	MEXT	21st Century COE Program	National/public/private universities	Yen 100-500M for 5 years	No solicitation in 2008	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_m/enu/koutou/coe/main6_a3.htm
		Global COE Program	National/public/private universities	Yen 50-500M for 5 years	2/12-13/08	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_m/enu/koutou/globalcoe/index.htm
		World Premier International (WPI) Program	Universities, inter-university research institutes, independent administrative organizations, public corporations	Yen 500M-2B for 10 years	No solicitation in 2008	http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-toplevel/index.html
		Earth Observation System Promotion Plan	Individual researchers or research groups at national/public/private universities, national/public research experiment institutions, independent administrative organizations, companies	Yen 10-160M for 3-5 years	No solicitation in 2008	http://www.mext.go.jp/b_m/enu/houdou/18/06/06061505.htm
		Innovative Nuclear R&D Program	Research groups at national/public/private universities, national/public research experiment institutions, independent administrative organizations, companies	Basic R&D: Up to Yen 100M for 3 years	1/23-3/4/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/nrd/index.html
		Special Promotion: Up to Yen 400M for up to 4 years	No solicitation in 2008			

MEXT	MEXT	Key technology research development	Industry/university/government R&D organizations	New disease/recurring disease research program: Yen 2-9M per center depending on the content of the research until 2009	No solicitation in 2008	http://www.lifescience.mext.go.jp/projects/h18/18b007.html
			National/public/private universities, private companies, independent administrative research organizations	Molecular imaging program: Yen 1-5 M per center until 2009	No solicitation in 2008	http://www.lifescience.mext.go.jp/projects/h18/18c001.html
			Universities, technical colleges, inter-university research organizations, public experimental research institutions, independent administrative organizations, private companies	Target protein research program: Yen 20-80M for individual research; Yen 30M-1.5B for technology development research; for 3-5 years	No solicitation in 2008	http://www.tanpaku.org
			Research institutions, universities and inter-university research institutions	Translational research support program: Yen 300M for implementing organization and Yen 500M for the organization that support the implementing organization; for 3-5 years	End of March-early April	http://www.tr.mext.go.jp
			Universities, technical colleges, inter-university research institutions, national/public experimental research institutions, independent administrative research organizations, private research institutions	Brain Science: Yen 10-30M for 3 years	4/14/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/keytech/kouboh20-4.html
			Industry/university/government	Next-generation IT: Yen 100-500M depending on the content for 3-5 years	TBD	http://www.jst.go.jp/keytech/02it/index.html
			Industry/university/government research teams	New interdisciplinary area in Nano and Materials fields: Yen 100-500M until 2011 at the longest	3/10-4/24/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/keytech/03nano/index.html
			Industry/university/government R&D institutions	Optical/quantum science research centers: About Yen 1.5B in total for 5-10 years	TBD	Phone: 03-6734-4115 WEB to be established
		Basic tool technology development program for making good use of marine resources	National/public/private universities, national/public experimental research institutions, independent administrative institutions	Up to Yen 100M from JFY2008-2010	2/25-3/24/08	http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/20/02/08022005/001.pdf
		Nuclear power basic strategy research initiative	National/public/private universities, national/public experimental research institutions, independent administrative institutions	Strategic nuclear power cooperative research program: Yen 20-30M for about 3 years	3/14-4/25/08	http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/20/03/08031305/001.pdf
				Research using furnace/hot lab: Yen 40M for about 3 years		
				Young researcher in nuclear power research (below 40 years old): Yen 10M for about 2 years		

MEXT	MEXT & JSPS	Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	National/public/private universities, national public research experimental institutions, private companies, independent administrative organizations	Specially Promoted Research: Up to Yen 500M for up to 3-5 yrs.	11/12-15/07	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_m/enu/shinkou/hojyo/main5/a5.htm http://www.jsps.go.jp/j-grantsinaid/index.html
				Scientific Research in Priority Areas: Yen 20-600M for up to 3-6 yrs.		
				Scientific Research: (S) Yen 50-200M for up to 5 years; (A) Yen 20-50M for 3-5 years; (B) Yen 5-20M for 3-5 years; (C) Up to Yen 5M For 3-5 years		
				Exploratory Research: Up to Yen 5M for 1-3 years		
				Young Scientists: (S) Up to Yen 1M for up to 5 years; (A) Yen 5-30M for 2-3 years; (B) Up to Yen 5M for 2-4 years		
				Elementary, secondary, and informal S&T education: Up to Yen 1M for 1 year		
				Special Purposes: Urgent and critical research subjects		
				Publication of Research Results: Publishing scientific research results		
				Scientific Periodicals: Publication of international academic journals		
				Scientific Literature: Books on research results		
				Databases: Compiling and networking databases		
				Specially Designated Research Promotion: Research on topics of societal significance conducted by designated private research institutes		
Grant-in-aid for JSPS Fellows: Research by JSPS pre- and postdoctoral fellows for up to 3 years						
Creative Scientific Research: To further advance selected components of highly creative research conducted under Grants-in-Aid for up to 5 years						

MEXT	JST	Basic Research Programs	National/public/private universities, national public research experimental institutions, private companies, independent administrative organizations	CREST: Yen 30M-100M for up to 5 years	I. 1/28-3/4/08 II. Mid-March	http://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken
				PRESTO: Yen 10M-20M for 3-5 years	I. 1/28-3/4/08 II. Mid-March	
				ERATO: Yen 80-300M for 5 years	8/31-11/20/07	
				RISTEX: Yen 3-50M for 5 years	April-08	
		State-of-the-Art Measurement Analysis Technologies/Equipment Development Program	Research groups at national/public/private universities, national/public research experimental institutions, independent administrative organizations, companies	Not specified		http://www.jst.go.jp/sentan.html
		Innovative Technology Development Research Program	Companies (the research team should include researchers from national/public/private universities and national/public research experimental institutions)	Yen 10-40M for 2-3 years	No solicitation in 2008	http://www.jst.go.jp/tt/kakushin/index.html
		Unique and creative seeds development	R&D-type small- & medium-size companies (capital amount less than Yen 1B)	Unique modeling: Yen 15-25M for about 1 year	2/8-3/31/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/tt/dokusou/main.html
				University-oriented venture business creation: Yen 10-50M for up to 3 years	Early March-Mid-April 08	http://www.jst.go.jp/tt/uventure/
				Risk-taking fund for technology development: Yen 100M-2B for 2-7 years	Mid-March-Early-June 08 or Early-June-late July 08	http://www.jst.go.jp/itaku/
				Innovative venture business support: Yen 150M for 2-5 years	Mid-March-late-June 08	http://www.jst.go.jp/kakuchen/

MEXT	JST	Industry/university cooperation seeds innovation program	Cooperative research between Individual researchers at National/public/private universities, national/public experimental research institutions, independent administrative organizations and private companies	Proof of concept through feasibility studies: Yen 8M for up to 1 year	2/4-4/7/08 or till 6/9/08 or till 8/4/08	http://www.innovate/innov/kenzai/
				Practicality verification stage: Yen 50M (with matching funds) for up to 4 years	6/2-8/18/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/innovate/innov/ikusei/
	Local area innovation creation support program	Coordinators and researchers		University-oriented research seeds discovery and experiment: Discovery type: Up to Yen 2M for 1 year; Development type: Up to Yen 5M for 1 year	1/15-3/14/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/pr/info/info459/besshi.html
		Joint application by universities and their counterpart cooperative research companies		Nurturing university-oriented research results for commercialization: Up to Yen 26M for 2-3 years	Fall 2008	http://www.jst.go.jp/chiiki/ikusei/index.html
		Joint application by universities and their counterpart cooperative research companies		R&D resource utilization: Yen 30-100M for up to 3 years	4/1-5/15/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/chiiki/solgen/index.html
	R&D in provinces and Government-designated cities	Provinces and the Government-designated cities		Yen 210-240M for 5 years	TBD	http://www.jst.go.jp/chiiki/kesshu/index.html
	S&T research partnership for sustainable development	National/public/private universities, national/public experimental research institutions, companies, independent administrative institutions		Yen 10-50 M for 3-5 years	4/3-5/22/08	http://www.jst.go.jp/global/koubou.html#02
MHLW	MHLW	MHLW grants-in-aid	MHLW-related facilities and institutions, local area experimental research institutions, universities, private research institutes, independent administrative organizations	Yen 1-800M for 1-3 years	10/29-12/10/07	http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/kenkyuuigyou/index.html
	NIBIO	Basic research promotion in health and medical fields	National experimental research institutions, independent administrative research institutions, special corporations, specially admitted corporations, and public corporations	Yen 10-100M for up to 5 years	1/31-2/28/08	http://www.nibio.go.jp/shinko/kisoken/kiso20bosyu.pdf

MAFF	MAFF	Commercial technology development to promote new agriculture/forestry/fisheries policies	Research groups consisting of public experimental research institutes, independent administrative organizations, universities, private industries and producers	Research in designated research areas: Up to Yen 50M for up to 3 years	1/17-3/5/08	http://www.s.affrc.go.jp/docs/research_fund/2008pdf/vo_uryo.pdf
				Addressing local issues: Up to Yen 30M for up to 3 years		
				Research on critical issues: Up to Yen 10M until the end of the fiscal year the research began	Not known	
		New technology development to activate food industries by industry/university/government cooperation	Private companies (that use technology seeds owned by public research institutions and contract out part of the technology development to public research institutes)	Up to 40M for up to 3 years	No solicitation in/after 2008	http://www.s.affrc.go.jp/docs/research_fund.htm
	NARO	Basic research for creating innovation	Full time researchers or research group at national universities, independent administrative organizations, national and public experimental research institutes, and private companies	Technology seeds development: Up to Yen 70M or Yen 80M (if it includes int'l activities) for up to 5 years	4/1-4/15/08	http://brain.naro.affrc.go.jp/tokyo/marumoto/up/h20bosyu/top.htm
				Technology seeds development-young researchers fostering: Up to Yen 30M for up to 3 years		
Development-type: Up to Yen 60M for up to 3 years						
Development-type venture business fostering: Phase I (feasibility study): Up to Yen 5M for up to 1 year; Phase II (R&D for those that had high evaluation in Phase I): Up to Yen 30M for up to 2 years						
BRAIN	Commercialization of research in industry sector	Private companies that are promoting R&D at commercialization stage	Up to Yen 100M for 3 years	4/14-5/16/08	http://brain.naro.affrc.go.jp/tokyo/marumin/kouboannnai/annnai.htm	

METI	METI	Innovative industrial nuclear energy technology development	Universities, technical colleges, research institutes, private companies or any institutes related to these	International cooperation technologies: About Yen 200M for 3 years	TBD	http://www.meti.go.jp	
				Basic technologies: Yen 20M for 3 years	TBD		
				Already existing business areas: Yen 300M for up to 3 years	No solicitation in/after 2008		
METI	METI	Local area resource utilization-type R&D	Form a research consortium that consists of local area experimental research institutes and private companies; proposals to be made by corporations	Up to Yen 30M for the first year; Up to Yen 20M for the second year	4/1-22/08	http://www.meti.go.jp/information/data/c80208bj.html	
		METI	Local area innovation creation R&D	Ordinary funds (One year of R&D): Up to Yen 100M	4/1-22/08	http://www.meti.go.jp/information/data/c80208bj.html	
	Ordinary funds (two years of R&D): Up to Yen 200M for the first year and Up to Yen 50 M for the second year						
	Agriculture/commerce/engineering: Up to Yen 100M for the first year and Yen 50 M for the second year						
	NEDO	Industrial technology research support	Young researchers (individual or team) who are affiliated with universities and research institutes in Japan Basically below 40 years old, only when they are specifically excellent, they can be older than 40 years old	Life science, IT, environment, nanotechnology/materials, manufacturing, energy: Up to Yen 50M for two years with possible extension of another 2 years	Innovative interdisciplinary areas: Up to Yen 50M for 4 years	1st round 11/30/07-1/24/08	http://www.nedo.go.jp/itd/teian/koubo.html
				Industrial technology-related social science: Up to Yen 10M for 2 years			
				International area: Up to Yen 40M for 4 years			
				R&D: Yen 10-100M for up to 3 years	I. 11/16-12/17/07 II. TBD	http://www.nedo.go.jp/kengyou/gyoumuka/tlo/tlo-top.htm	
	NEDO	Commercialization of university-oriented business	TLOs, universities, and private companies	Frontier research phase: Yen 20-100M for 2-3 years	Commercialization development phase: Yen 20-300M for 2-3 years	Mid-March-Mid-April 08	http://www.nedo.go.jp/activities/portal/p03033.html
		Strategic development of energy-saving technologies	Private companies	Probing research phase: Yen 20-500M for 2-3 years			
Preliminary research: Up to 10M for 1 year							

METI	NEDO	To promote eco-innovation, innovative countermeasures to solve global warming problems	Private companies, universities, public research institutes, NPOs	About Yen 5M for about 1 year	TBD	http://www.meti.go.jp
	JOGMEC	Oil and natural gas development and utilization program	Individuals or corporations residing in Japan	About Yen 100M for up to 2 years	TBD	http://www.jogmec.go.jp
MLIT	MLIT	R&D on construction technologies	Research institutions, including universities, public non-profit corporations, or any other organizations MLIT approves as appropriate	Basic and applied (A): Up to Yen 50M for 3 years	2/12-3/12/08	http://www.mlit.go.jp/gijutsu/laihatu/josei.html
				Basic and applied (B) Age below 40 years old: Less than Yen 10M for the first year and up to Yen 20M in total for up to 3 years		
				Commercialization: Up to Yen 20M in total for up to 2 years		
				Technology development on designated themes: Yen 35M in total for up to 2 years	2/12-3/26/08	
JRTT	Basic research in transportation field	Universities, national/public experimental research institutes, independent administrative organizations, special corporations, government-approved corporations, and private research institutes	Total Yen 50-70M for 3 years	TBD	http://www.meti.go.jp	
MOE	MOE	Environment technology development promotion	National experimental research institutes, independent administrative research institutes, universities, technical colleges, experimental research institutes, local government experimental research institutes, private experimental research institutes	Strategy-general: Yen 5-30M for 2-3 years	10/12-11/15/07 2/15-3/5/08	http://www.eng.go.jp
				Strategy-young researchers: Up to Yen 5M for 2-3 years		
				Strategy-designated themes: Up to Yen 50M for 4 years		
	MOE	Grant-in-aid for scientific research for waste disposal	Universities, independent administrative research institutes Private companies, local government organizations, universities	Recycling society: Yen 1-100M for up to 3 years Next-generation recycling society: Yen 2.5-100M for 1 year	12/17/07-1/28/08	http://www.env.go.jp

MOE	MOE	Comprehensive promotion of global environment research	National experimental research institutes, national/public/private universities, technical colleges, local government research institutes, independent administrative institutes, special corporations, admitted corporations, private companies, non-profit organizations	Strategic R&D: Yen 1-100M for 5 years Global environment problem solving-type R&D: Yen 10-100M for 3 years Innovative research: About Yen 10M for 1-2 years	10/12-11/15/07	http://www.env.go.jp/earth/suishinhi/index.htm
		Technology development to cope with global environment problems	national experimental research institutes, independent administrative experimental research institutions, universities, technical colleges, local government experimental research institutes, private companies' research institutes	Yen 10-500M for up to 3 years	2/5-3/5/08	http://www.env.go.jp