Overview of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology 2013

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

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HP

For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage.

http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm

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

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

(as of July1, 2013)

MEXT's Staff Members	2,086
Ministry Proper	1,851
Agency for Cultural Affairs	235

- Minister
  - Senior Vice Minister (2 persons)
  - Vice Minister (2 persons)
  - (Administrative) Vice Minister
    - Deputy Minister (2 persons)
      - Director-General for International Affairs
      - **Minister's Secretariat**
        - Personnel Division
        - Management and Coordination Division
        - Budget and Accounts Division
        - Policy Division
        - International Affairs Division
      - **Department of Facilities Planning and Administration**
        - Facilities Planning Division
        - Local Facilities Aid Division
        - National Facilities Division
        - Technical Affairs Division
      - **Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau**
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        - 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
      - **Sports and Youth Bureau**
        - Policy Planning Division
        - Sports Promotion Division
        - Competitive Sports Division
        - School Health Education Division
        - Youth Division
        - Physical Education Division / Youth Development Division
      - **Agency for Cultural Affairs**
        - **Commissioner's Secretariat**
          - Policy Planning and Coordination Division
          - Copyright Division
          - International Affairs Division
        - **Cultural Affairs Department**
          - Arts and Culture Division
          - Japanese Language Division
          - Religious Affairs Division
        - **Cultural Properties Department**
          - Traditional Culture Division
          - Fine Arts Division
          - Monuments and Sites Division
          - Architecture and Other Structures Division
        - **Special Institutions**
          - The Japan Art Academy
      - **Organs under MEXT jurisdiction**
        - National Institute for Educational Policy Research
        - National Institute of Science and Technology Policy
      - **Special Institutions**
        - The Japan Academy
        - The Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion
        - Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

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	The Science and Technology Basic Law enacted
1996	The First Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2000)
1998	Nagano Olympics held
2000	The Basic Plan for the Promotion of Sports formulated (to FY2011)
2001	MEXT established (merging of the Ministry of Education, Science Sports and Culture and the Science and Technology Agency)
	Fundamental Law for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts enacted
	The Second Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2005)
2002	The First Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts formulated (to FY2006)
	Five-day week system implemented for schools
2006	The Third Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated (to FY2010)
	Revision of the Basic Act on Education enacted
2007	The Second Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts formulated (to FY2010)
2008	The First Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education formulated (to FY2012)
2011	The Third Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts formulated
	The Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan formulated
	The Basic Act on Sport enacted
2012	The Sport Basic Plan formulated
2013	The Second Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education formulated

Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau

Creating a society in which people of all ages, from children to adults, can learn and apply their newfound skills anytime, anywhere

- Policy Planning and Coordination Division
- Lifelong Learning Promotion Division
- Education Media and Information Policy Division
- Social Education Division
- Gender Equality Learning Division
- Coordination and Community Affairs Division

MEXT examines the basic direction of education policy by planning and drafting basic educational policies, works to promote education in which schools, families and communities collaborate, enhances libraries, museums and specialized training colleges, facilitates education and learning for gender equality, and advances the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in school education, and improve career education and vocational education.

✻ Promotion of Educational Reform

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) promotes educational reform based on the principles of the Basic Act on Education revised in December 2006. In June 2013, a Cabinet decision was made on a vision for future educational policy, and the Second Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education was adopted, outlining the policies to be promoted over five years starting from FY2013.

The Second Basic Plan defines education as the cornerstone for tackling the risks faced by society. The plan shows an educational vision based on the three principles of independence, collaboration and creativity and sets four educational directions including “developing social competencies for survival”. Moreover, the plan also defines performance targets, indices and specific methods to evaluate progress in each of these four policy directions.

Based on the Second Basic Plan, MEXT continues to promote educational reform based on considerations by the Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding established within the Prime Minister’s Office and the Central Council for Education.

HP Basic Act on Education

HP Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education

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

・Promoting partnership and cooperation 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 Education Law, it is important to construct necessary frameworks for society as a whole to become involved in education.

Accordingly, MEXT promotes measures to realize education in which schools, families and communities cooperate. These include School Support Regional Headquarters aimed at promoting communities to assist school educational activities in and outside of the classroom, along with the Program to Promote After-School Classes for Children which provides children with learning opportunities and various hands-on programs to experience and exchange with others after school on weekdays and on weekends.

HP Connecting Schools Homes and Communities
http://manabi-mirai.mext.go.jp/

Math class using IT instructed by teachers and community volunteers
(Bungo Takada City, Oita Prefecture)

・Improving support for education at home through strong ties with the community

MEXT supports voluntary initiatives in local communities so that parents can receive information and take classes on education at home, 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” national movement in collaboration with civic groups to improve children’s basic lifestyles. The national movement aims to increase public awareness on the importance of basic lifestyles.

HP Support for Education at Home

HP “Early to Bed, Early to Rise and Don’t Forget Your Breakfast” national movement symbol
http://www.hayanehayaoki.jp/

“Early to Bed, Early to Rise and Don’t Forget Your Breakfast” National movement symbol

✻ Providing Lifelong Learning Opportunities

In order to enhance lifelong learning opportunities, it is necessary to secure various learning opportunities through school education, social education and home education. MEXT works to enhance the curriculum provided by the Open University of Japan which offers people university education at home, to advance specialized training colleges which provide practical vocational education, and enhance community learning sites including libraries, museums and community centers. Moreover, MEXT administers the Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination which appropriately evaluates and utilizes candidates’ learning outcomes, assists young people, women and working adults aiming to relearn for their career development, and implements the National Lifelong Learning Network Forum to stimulate the nation’s interest in lifelong learning.

Galloping Across Land
(Provided by the National Museum of Nature and Science)

✻ Steady Promotion of ICT in Education

The utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools aims to stimulate children’s interest in learning and helps to create classes which are easy for children to follow. In addition to traditional classroom learning, ICT realizes children’s individual learning by providing education suited to every individual’s strengths and potential, in addition to facilitating collaborative education, in which children teach and learn from each other. MEXT promotes ICT in education by utilizing ICT in teaching of the curriculum and special needs education, advances ICT utilization by teachers, supports measures to advance children’s information literacy, and works to advance the utilization of ICT for school administrative works.

HP Promoting Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› **http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm**

Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau

Planning Educational Enhancements from Preschool through Elementary, Lower and Upper Secondary school or Equivalent school to foster high-level academics and normative consciousness

- 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

MEXT strives to develop education that gives all children a Zest for life, focusing on the overall balance between academic ability, richness in humanity and health, a sound body, and promotes fostering global individuals who will lead future society. MEXT also works to maintain and enhance the national educational level by improving teacher quality and constructing necessary teaching frameworks for educators.

✻ Improving Academic Performance

MEXT established the Courses of Study as a broad standard for all schools to organize their programs to ensure a fixed standard of education throughout the country.

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 aim to nurture in children a “Zest for life” by enhancing the content of education and increasing the number of classes, with an emphasis on the balance between acquiring basic and fundamental knowledge and skills, and fostering the ability to think, make decisions and express oneself.

In order to enable the smooth implementation of the new Courses of Study, MEXT also works on initiatives to enhance administrative systems, 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 (science added in FY2012) for students in the sixth year of elementary school and the third year of lower secondary school. These results are being utilized to improve education and educational policies nationwide.

HP Outline of the new of Courses of Study

✻ Improving Teacher Quality

In order to secure excellent teachers who play a vital role in the success of school education, teachers of public elementary and lower secondary schools must obtain a teaching certificate. MEXT encourages universities to focus on fostering practical teaching skills for students enrolled in teacher training courses. MEXT also encourages initiatives which foster high professionalism and practical teaching skills for public school teachers hired and trained through local boards of education.

✻ Constructing Necessary Teaching Frameworks for Educators

Every Japanese citizen is guaranteed the equal opportunity to receive compulsory education. In order to maintain a standard compulsory education, the Class Organization for Public Compulsory Education and the Number of Teachers Act defines important factors in school educational environments including the range of students per class and teacher placement. As such, around 1.06 million teachers are posted at public schools nationwide.

Public school teachers are also regarded as local public service employees. The National Treasury Share for Compulsory Education Expenditure System requires the state to shoulder one-third the cost of every public school teacher’s salary.

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

✻ Assisting School Management

MEXT promotes the development of schools in partnership with the community to realize high quality education and to solve problems faced by children. MEXT encourages utilizing the strengths of parents and the community through Community Schools (School Management Council System) and school evaluations.

✻ Corresponding to Problem Behavior such as Bullying, Prohibiting Physical Punishment and the Promoting Career Education

・Corresponding to the problem behavior

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

・Prohibiting physical punishment

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

・Promoting career education

In order for children to develop the attitude and ability necessary to subjectively choose and decide their career paths and to live independently, MEXT promotes the promulgation of structural career education per educational stage through various educational activities.

✻ Promoting Special Needs Education

Special needs education for students with disabilities aims to fully develop students’ capabilities, independence and social participation upon consideration of every individual’s educational needs. As such, special needs education is carried out in various forms according to every individual’s degree of disability including in resource rooms, in special classes (both in regular schools) and in special schools named “Schools for Special Needs Education” for elementary and lower secondary students.

HP Special Needs Education

✻ Nurturing Global Individuals

With the advance of globalization, it is necessary to foster global individuals from the early stages of elementary school through lower and upper secondary school who excel in language, communication skills, subjectivity and understanding towards different cultures. MEXT comprehensively strives to; strengthen English language education, improve the teaching and language skills of English teachers, promote international exchange, cultural exchanges between upper secondary school students and exchange students, enhance education of Japanese children overseas, and enhance education of returning Japanese children from overseas and foreign children in Japan.

HP International Education

High school student exchange program at University of Sydney Science School

✻ Promoting Early Childhood Education

Early childhood is important to cultivate the foundation of the lifelong formation of character. As such, it is important that every child is provided with quality preschool education. MEXT strives to; upgrade educational content for kindergartens through the 2008 revision of the Courses of Study for Kindergartens, alleviate the economic burden for guardians, and enhance support for families and communities during early childhood education. Moreover, MEXT is promoting the establishment of “Centre for early childhood education and care” which comprehensively provides education and childcare to preschool children as well as childcare assistance to parents.

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm

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 pursues various policies to promote higher education. MEXT 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 the development of high-level professionals. At the same time, MEXT performs administration for the selection of students' school entry, student support, internationalization of universities and foreign student exchanges, and the invigoration of incorporated national universities. In addition, it promotes private schools through preferential tax treatment , subsidies and administrative guidance and advice.

✻ Improving Universities and Graduate Schools

・Promoting measures for future university education

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

In order to respond to nation's needs, MEXT strives to ensure the execution of university reform in order to realize university education of the highest international standards.

・Assuring quality university education

Universities must actively respond to the diverse needs of students and society while steadily assuring quality 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. According to August 2012 Central Council for Education report, "Changing the quality of university education to build a new future" the Council proposes the creation of a reform-cycle which assures increased hours of quality learning to reform universities into an environment which enables individuals to "continuously foster subjective thinking throughout their lives". Moreover, the currently teacher-centered subject classes must be reformed into an organizational and systematic educational curriculum.

Based on the above, MEXT is working to reform the current system and regulations, secure a budget, and to guarantee and enhance the quality of university education through the nationwide dissemination of outstanding measures implemented at various universities.

・Improving graduate education

Graduate education needs to foster creative human resources that can lead a knowledge-based society. In order to achieve this, MEXT is vigorously working on establishment of research centers of international excellence and on development of global leaders who can take active roles across industry, academia, and the government.

・Assisting educational 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 characteristics.

・Current 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 according to the each university's founding principles and characteristics. 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.

With drastic structural changes in today's social economy, MEXT encourages strengthening the functions of national universities by assisting universities working to strengthen their globalization and innovation so that each national university can increase its strengths and characteristics to fulfill a better social role capable of responding to society's expectations.

・Fostering high-level professionals and technicians

Universities train advanced professionals with highly specialized knowledge and skills based on the social needs of various industries. In the medical-related field, for example, MEXT works to foster competent medical doctors who are highly motivated to major in community medicine , and superior medical human resources who are able to respond to society's needs. In the veterinarian 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 (University Law Schools), school education (Teaching Profession Graduate School), accounting, business management, 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 junior high school education. These colleges foster practical and creative technicians who represent the backbone of manufacturing.

✻ Scholarship Loan Programs

Scholarship loan programs and scholarship programs are important educational measures for the goals of equal opportunity for education and human resource development. They are broadly implemented by the independent administrative institution, Japan Student Services Organization, local governments, public-interest corporations and schools, etc.

Japan Student Services Organization provides scholarship loan programs for exemplary students who have difficulty getting education because of financial reasons. The programs offer interest-free loans and low-interest loans.

In FY2013, the number of students to whom scholarship loans are available considerably increased to around 1.44 million. MEXT is also working to enhance the current system implemented from FY2012 that requires scholarship loan recipients to repay a fixed amount when their annual salary after graduation exceeds a certain amount, and to prepare for transition to a future system in which the repayment amount will be determined annually according to the recipient's income.

HP Japan Student Services Organization

✻ Promoting Private Schools

Japan's private schools carry out unique educational and research activities in the spirits of their founding and play an important role in Japanese school education. 80 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 via the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan, preferential tax treatment and support for management of school corporation.

HP Promotion of Private Schools

✻ Promoting the Internationalization of Universities and Student Exchange

As of May 2012, there were about 138,000 foreign students studying in Japanese universities while 58,000 Japanese students studying abroad in 2010.

In addition, as of 2009, there were about 17,000 exchange agreements between Japanese and foreign universities. Many universities have established organizational and continuous educational cooperation such as double degree programs to foster human resources in collaboration with foreign universities. As globalization continues to accelerate, it is necessary to foster global human resources who can play an active role with an international perspective by acquiring good communication skills and experiencing different cultures based on Japanese identity. From these points of view, it is important to promote the internationalization of universities and student exchanges.

MEXT is promoting to double the number of Japanese student studying abroad, in order to provide opportunities studying abroad to all young people who are highly-motivated and competent. MEXT is also working to achieve the "300,000 International Students Plan" by strategically accepting excellent international students. In addition, MEXT has been providing support with priority to universities promoting thorough internationalization by increasing the number of foreign faculty and classes taught in English. MEXT also continues to support the "CAMPUS Asia" project, a trilateral initiative among Japan, China and Korea which aims to promote inter-university exchanges. Moreover, MEXT further promotes student exchanges with quality assurance through such as the Working Group on the Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries proposed by Japan at the First ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting held in July 2012.

HP Promotion of Student Exchanges

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› **http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science and Technology Policy Bureau

Creating Necessary Frameworks to Promote Science and Technology

- Policy Division
- Planning and Evaluation Division
- Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division
- Research and Development Infrastructure Division
- University-Industry Collaboration and Regional R&D Division

MEXT plans and proposes basic policies to promote science and technology. MEXT aims to develop human resources in science and technology from students to leading researchers and engineers, strategically promotes international activities, university-industry-government collaboration, the advancement of science and technology in regional areas and innovation policies in science and technology by improving and sharing research bases.

✻ Planning and Proposing for Basic Policies on Science and Technology

MEXT comprehensively promotes science and technology based on the Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY2011-FY2015). Based on the fundamental principles of this plan, MEXT encourages science, technology and innovation policies which aim to realize sustainable growth and the advancement of society. Moreover, MEXT established the Council for Science and Technology, and examines and broadly deliberates such important policies.

HP The Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan

HP Council for Science and Technology

✻ Research and Assessment on Science and Technology Policy

Based on the Science and Technology Basic Law, MEXT annually compiles science and technology related policies implemented by the government to prepare the annual report on the promotion of science and technology (White Paper on Science and Technology) which is submitted to the National Diet. MEXT also formulates "Guidelines for Evaluation of Research and Development in MEXT" and implements R&D evaluation according to the guidelines, and promotes the establishment and improvement of various measures.

Japanese medalists at the International Chemistry Olympiad

✻ Nurturing Human Resources in Science and Technology related Fields

As Japan has entered an age of population decline, the nation must promote measures which foster, secure and utilize human resources working in the science and technology-related fields to become a global leader in science and technology. In order to do so, MEXT encourages consistent and comprehensive human resource development policies spanning across all age-groups which aim to; increase the number of children interested in math and science, enhance measures to help children discover and develop their talents, create necessary environments for various individuals including young, female and foreign researchers which enable them to fulfill their potential, and to promote the growth and utilization of the professional engineer system.

✻ Strategic Promotion of International Activities

MEXT promotes science and technology collaborations with various countries and with international organizations. MEXT also promotes international research exchanges and joint research from the standpoint of science and technology diplomacy which combines Japan's cutting-edge science and technology with diplomacy. MEXT further promotes both dispatching Japanese researchers and accepting foreign researchers to correspond to the global flow of intellectual mobility.

SATREPS H21 adopted subjects:
"Burkina Faso: Developing a sustainable water and sanitary system for the African Sahel region."

✻ Promoting University-Industry-Government Collaboration and Advancing Science and Technology in Regional Areas

The promotion of university-industry-government collaboration aims to reward society with the fruits of research which is also crucial for the revitalization of university education and research. MEXT assists universities creating large-scale university-industry collaborated research and development platform, university-industry joint research projects, research aimed at practical application, and provides specialized assistance for intellectual properties.
Moreover, the promotion of science and technology in regional areas revitalizes communities which contribute to the sophistication and diversification of science and technology nationwide. For this purpose, MEXT promotes measures which effectively support regional innovation and make the best use of the local community's strengths and characteristics.

HP University-Industry-Government collaboration, Promoting science and technology in regional areas

✻ Creating and Sharing Necessary Frameworks for Generic Research Development

In order to generate cutting-edge research originating from researchers' unique and creative research and development activities, it is vital to strengthen research infrastructure by enhancing universities with advanced research equipment and facilities and advancing base technology and equipment. MEXT is promoting the creation of a platform to effectively correspond to the various user needs by networking cutting-edge research facilities such as the large synchrotron radiation facility (SPring-8) and the X-ray free electron laser (SACLA), upgrading research facilities and equipment, and promoting their communal use. Moreover, MEXT aims to strengthen research development foundations which sustain innovation by promoting the development and diffusion of advanced measurement analysis technology and equipment, along with advancing applied research and practical application for light quantum science and technology.

HP Large synchrotron radiation facility (SPring-8), X-ray free electron laser (SACLA)

HP Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC)

HP Quantum Beam Project

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

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Research Promotion Bureau

Promoting Basic Research in Universities, and advancing Science and Technology corresponding to Policy Issues

- Promotion Policy Division
- Basic Research Promotion Division
- Scientific Research Institute Division
- Scientific Research Aid Division
- Life Sciences Division
- Information Division
- Materials Science and Nanotechnology Development Division

MEXT advances policies to promote scientific 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.

✻ Promoting Basic Research

Basic research which originates from the free ideas of researchers is based on spontaneity and creativity. The creation of new knowledge through basic research ultimately contributes to the expansion of intellectual assets shared by all of humanity. MEXT works to promote academic research at universities and inter-university research institutes by; reforming systems to secure measures which support basic costs, enhancing Grants-in-aid for Scientific Research, and establishing a fund which allows multiple year appropriations of research funds. Moreover, MEXT promotes creative and cutting-edge large-scale research which gives humanity hopes and dreams. The Large-scale Academic Frontiers Project aims to advance neutrino research which aspires to solve the mystery behind the evolution of space in addition to using a giant electrical wave telescope to elucidate how the galaxy was formed right after the Big Bang and the mystery of life's origin.

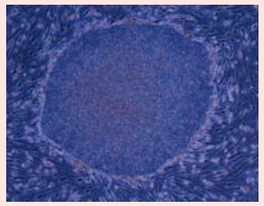
Basic research also plays a crucial role in the nation's social and economic development by stimulating innovation. In addition to goal-oriented basic research funded through competitive grants such as the Strategic Creative Research Promotion Project, MEXT promotes research aimed at achieving policy goals including the development of innovative environmental technologies at independent administrative institutions for research and development such as RIKEN.

Moreover, MEXT promotes the World Premier International Research Initiative (WPI) which aims to create a world-class research center of highly visible presence in the global community, integrating various fields and attracting outstanding researchers from Japan and around the world.

ALMA Observatory (provided by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan)

✻ Promoting Research and Development in Life Sciences

The life sciences aims to elucidate the complex and delicate mechanism of life phenomenon carried out by living organisms. It is also a promising field expected to greatly contribute to enhancing the nation's lifestyle and socio-economic development by realizing the nation's enhancement in health and longevity, corresponding to contagious diseases such as new strains of influenza and solving 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 illnesses, brain science research aimed at analyzing the brain's functions and overcoming depression and dementia, and applied research on the practical application of personalized medicine and personalized prevention. 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 which appropriately correspond to safety measures and life ethics issues.



Human iPS cell colony derived from fibroblast (provided by Kyoto University, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka)

HP Life Science Portalsite

✻ Promoting Research and Development in Information and Communication Technology

Information and communication technology including innovative computing technology, information reference technology and network technology are basic technologies which are the key to deriving successful results in various fields. Network computers and super computers are vital social infrastructures which help sustain research activities of universities and industries. MEXT promotes the application of large data, and research and development of basic technology including information infrastructure, the strengthening of disaster resistance, and the ultra-low consumption of electricity. Moreover, MEXT is working to create an academic information network (SINET 4) by linking nationwide university supercomputers with the K computer, and building a revolutionary high-performance computing infrastructure aimed at realizing computing environments capable of responding to users various needs.

HP Supercomputer "K computer"

Heart simulation at the atomic level using the K Computer (Replicating heart beat and blood flow at the atomic level has contributed to elucidating the causes of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and evaluating new treatments and medicinal effects.)
(Provided by University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, Toshiaki Hisada, Project Professor)

✻ 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. In order to strengthen the nation's industrial competitiveness, MEXT is working on the development of new materials to reduce the use of critical elements and also promotes establishing research platform by the alliance of the institutes which have cutting-edge equipment.

Transmission electron microscope (Provided by the National Institute for Materials Science)

HP Nanotech Japan

✻ Promoting Research and Development in the Fields of particle and nuclear physics

By using large-scale research facilities called particle accelerators, the field of particle and nuclear physics aims to probe into the properties of elementary particles and nuclei that constitute the materials surrounding us. This field aims to solve the ultimate structure of matter, along with the origin of elements and fundamental forces at work in the universe. MEXT works on pursuing the fundamental laws of nature in addition to developing cutting-edge particle accelerators to promote important development and research which greatly effects the advancement of other research fields.

Aerial view of High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) (Provided by KEK)

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm

Research and Development Bureau

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

- Research and Development 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

MEXT promotes research and development to solve social problems related to the environment, energy, earthquakes and disaster prevention. MEXT 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.

✻ Promoting Research and Development in Aerospace

H-IIB test launch
(Provided by: JAXA)

Space development and utilization play a crucial role in strengthening Japan's core foundations. Advances in space development improve the quality of people's lives through the utilization of satellite-based applications including telecommunications, broadcasting, positioning/navigation/timing (PNT), weather forecasting and earth observation, contribute to acquiring new knowledge on space science research, and is indispensible for giving children a chance to dream.

As aircrafts 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 promote the reduction of CO_2 emissions.

Japan is promoting measures to secure a rocket launching system with reliability of the highest level in the world.

The H-IIA launch vehicle has been successfully launched sixteen consecutive times in recent years. The Konotori Transfer Vehicle (HTV) which carries cargo to the International Space Station with the H-IIB launch vehicle was successfully launched four consecutive times, and the Epsilon rocket was successfully launched in 2013. MEXT also focuses on promoting the following policies:

- Research and development of space transportation systems such as the national primary launching vehicle to maintain and ensure the autonomy in launching satellites and other spacecraft whenever necessary;
- Construction of satellite-based observation and surveillance system that contribute to observation of the global environment, disaster monitoring, communications, and positioning/navigation/timing;
- Comprehensive utilization of the space environment through the International Space Station and other space assets;
- Space science research at the highest level in the world such as space exploration in unexplored regions and the solar system;
- Research and development in aviation science and technology in response to social demands such as passenger safety and environmental compliance.

HP H-IIB Rocket

✻ Promoting Research and Development in Nuclear Energy

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

- MEXT is promoting research and development related to decommissioning and decontamination which are necessary to help accelerate the revitalization of communities affected by the nuclear accident.
- MEXT is advancing necessary measures in line with revised energy policies for the research and development of fast-breeder reactors. Based on lessons learnt from the Fukushima Daiichi accident, MEXT is working to improve safety measures for the fast breeder reactor Monju.
- MEXT supports basic research and human resource development carried out by research organizations and universities which contribute to securing nuclear safety including research on severe accidents.
- MEXT promotes measures which improve the harmonious relationship between nuclear energy and the community, measures which secure nonproliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

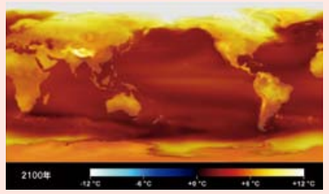
HP Fast Breeder Reactor Monju

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

✻ Promoting Research and Development in the Environment and Energy Fields

In order to tackle climate change issues such as global warming, MEXT promotes research and development which aim to transform Japan into a "low-carbon society", allowing for sustained economic development while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

- MEXT promotes research and development on advanced technologies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- MEXT promotes research on highly accurate climate change predictions using the "Earth Simulator" supercomputer, research and development on adapting to the environmental changes expected to accompany global warming.
- In order to "create the sun on earth", or to realize fusion energy, MEXT promotes cutting-edge research and development on fusion energy including the ITER Project and the Broader Approach (BA) Activities under international collaboration.



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

✻ Promoting Research and Development in the Oceans and the Earth

MEXT works on research and development in the oceans, the Earth and the environment to respond to problems related to humanity's future existence such as securing resources and discovering the nature of unknown regions of the oceans and the Earth's interior.

- MEXT promotes observations to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Earth such as oceanographic observation using research vessels and buoys and Antarctic Observation Programs.
- MEXT assists Japan and the U.S.-lead 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.

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

HP Antarctic Observation Programs / Deep Sea Drilling Vessel CHIKYU

✻ Promotion of Research and Development for Earthquake and Disaster Prevention Studies

3D Full-scale Earthquake Testing Facility (E-Defense)

Beginning with the Great East Japan Earthquake shows that Japan is located in an area prone to frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, typhoons and heavy snowfall. MEXT promotes research and development intended to mitigate the damage from such disasters.

- MEXT proposes policies for the promotion of research and carries out research on improving accuracy in forecasting the probability of earthquake occurrence and size and better understanding the mechanisms of earthquakes.
- MEXT engages in a large-scale observation and research projects on future earthquakes which are estimated to cause major socio-economic damages regarding earthquakes that occur in the Nankai Trough region, along with earthquakes that occur directly under the Tokyo area.
- MEXT promotes research and development of disaster prevention science and technologies which correspond to various types of natural disasters by utilizing earthquake-resistant technologies including the E Defense 3D full-scale earthquake testing facility.

HP Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion / E-Defense

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm

Sports and Youth Bureau

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

- Policy Planning Division
- Sports Promotion Division
- Competitive Sports Division
- School Health Education Division
- Youth Division
- Physical Education Division / Youth Development Division

MEXT strives to promote sport by increasing sport opportunities for children, promoting sport activities in line with the life stages, improving community sport environments and advancing the international competitiveness of athletes.
MEXT also promotes policies to protect children's health and safety by ensuring school safety, school health and Shokuiku (diet and nutrition education). In addition, MEXT promotes nature hands-on activities and reading activities to foster healthy children.

✻ Promoting Sport

Sport is a universally shared human culture. Sport plays a key role in diverse facets of people's lives, for example by supporting the sound fostering of youth, revitalizing local communities, the retaining and promoting of mental and physical health.

The Basic Act on Sport was enacted in June 2011, following the first comprehensive revision of the Sport Promotion Act in 50 years. MEXT established the Sport Basic Plan in March 2012, pursuant to this Act.

To create a society where all people can enjoy a happy and fulfilled life through sport, the Plan sets the key principles of sport promotion for the coming decade, as well as the measures to be advanced over the next five years.

Based on the Sport Basic Plan, MEXT is striving to increase sport opportunities for children and promote sport activities in line with the life stages regardless of age, gender or disabilities. MEXT also works to improve such community sport environments as Comprehensive Community Sport Clubs and to promote coordination and cooperation between top sport and community sport. Moreover, MEXT aims to improve the international competitiveness of athletes and promotes international exchanges and contributions through, for example, bids for and holding of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition, by promoting of activities to enhance governance of sport organization and anti-doping activities, MEXT aims to create an environment where everyone can safety enjoy sport.

HP Promotion of sports, Realization of a lifelong sports society, Enhancement of the physical strength of children, Enhancement of Japan's international competitiveness

Japan Youth Softball Baseball Competition (Provided by: Japan Sports Association)

Coaching by top athletes (Photo by: Photo Kishimoto)

London Olympic medalist group photo (Provided by: Aflo Sport)

✻ Improving School Health Education

In order to raise healthy children in mind and body, it is important to promote initiatives related to school safety, Shokuiku, school lunches and school health.

Japan is confronted with the pressing issue of assuring a safe school environment with increased threats of; children being caught in accidents during their way to and from school, natural disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and suspicious persons. On April 27, 2012, a Cabinet decision was made on the Plan to Promote School Safety. Based on the Plan, MEXT promotes measures to improve school safety by creating safe and secure environments with cooperation from the community, and supports the advancement of safety education to raise children's safety awareness.

Moreover, due to the increasing trend of unhealthy eating habits, obesity and weight reduction, MEXT promotes food-related instruction in schools led by diet and nutrition teachers (i.e. Shokuiku) to instill proper knowledge on food and healthy eating habits. In addition, MEXT also promotes the use of local produce in school lunches, rice-based school lunches and thorough hygiene management.

Furthermore, in order to correspond to the diversified and complex health issues faced by children such as food allergies and mental health, MEXT promotes community-based measures which advance the construction of necessary frameworks for school health management. MEXT also promotes health education so that children maintain and improve their health throughout their lives, focusing on the topics of nonsmoking, drinking, drug abuse and sex education.

HP School Health Education

Student presentation of handmade disaster-prevention map (Provided by: Wakayama Prefecture Board of Education)

✻ Promoting Sound Development of Youth

In order to develop social competencies for survival such as a rich humanity and harmonious nature of youth, MEXT is encouraging various experiential activities of youth including international exchanges. The National Institution for Youth Education is providing youth with opportunities and places for experiential activities within its 28 youth education facilities and supports experiential activities for youth implemented by private bodies.

In addition, MEXT is promoting countermeasures against illegal or harmful contents on the Internet by collaborating with relevant government offices, ministries, agencies and other institutions to prevent youth involvement in crime or troubles.

Furthermore, based on the Third Basic Plan to Promote Children's Reading Activities formulated in May 2013, MEXT is working towards establishing necessary environments for children's subjective reading activities and is raising awareness for the significance of reading activities mainly on Children's Reading Day (April 23).

HP Sound Development of Youth

HP Establishing Countermeasures for Harmful Environments surrounding the Youth

HP Information Center on Children's Reading

Water-based nature experiential activity (National Yasukogen Youth Outdoor Learning Center)

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm

Agency for Cultural Affairs

Aiming to become a new “culture and arts-based nation” through the promotion of culture and arts

- Commissioner's Secretariat
  - Policy Planning and Coordination Division
  - Copyright Division
  - International Affairs Division
- Cultural Affairs Department
  - Arts and Culture Division
  - Japanese Language Division
  - Religious Affairs Division
- Cultural Properties Department
  - Traditional Culture Division
  - Fine Arts Division
  - Monuments and Sites Division
  - Architecture and Other Structures Division

The Agency implements a variety of policies on the promotion of culture and the arts towards realizing a “culture and arts-centered nation”. In concrete terms, it helps to foster artists and related personnel to nurture artistic activities, 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.

✻ Comprehensive Support for Culture and Art Promotion Policies

On February 8, 2011, a Cabinet decision was made on the Basic Policy for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts (Third Basic Policy). This formulated the basic direction and selective policies to promote culture and arts over the five year period of 2011 - 2015. By placing the promotion of culture and the arts as a core national policy, the Agency aims to increase Japan’s national strength by building an active society and realizing a lifestyle rich in spirit.

World Cultural Heritage “Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration”
(Provided by: Fuji city, Shizuoka Prefecture)

✻ Promotion of Art and Culture

Art and culture including music, theater, dance, movies, animations and manga play essential roles, enriching people's lives through creating happiness and inspiration, while also having the power to invigorate society as a whole.

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

Youth Culture and Arts Activity Project orchestral performance (Performing tour)

✻ 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 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 Agency also takes steps to utilize cultural properties, such as subsidizing the establishment of facilities to display cultural properties to the public and expanding opportunities to appreciate cultural properties through exhibitions and other events.

Furthermore, the Agency nominates those properties that are considered as having outstanding universal value among representative cultural heritage in Japan for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

“Nachi no Dengaku” folk dance (Higashi-Muro District, Wakayama Prefecture)
(Provided by: Wakayama Prefecture Board of Education)

✻ Promoting International Cultural Exchange and International Cooperation

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

The Agency makes Japanese outstanding culture known all over the world through initiatives such as sending specialists in culture as JAPAN Cultural Envoys, promoting international cultural exchange through art exchange, and holding overseas exhibitions.

Practical training session by 2012 JAPAN Cultural Envoy, Motohiko Shigeyama (Kyogen actor (Japanese traditional comedian) dispatched to Czech Republic)

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.

✻ 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 copyrights, and implements various policies to promote smooth use and distribution of works.

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

Copyright seminar in Niigata Prefecture in 2012

✻ Promoting Policies on Japanese Language and Japanese Language Education for Foreigners

Based on the importance of the Japanese language as a crucial foundation of Japanese culture, the Agency promotes the improvement and spread of the Japanese language based on the considerations and reports of the Subdivision on National Language of the Council for Cultural Affairs (formerly the National Language Council) including making the joyo kanji common knowledge and so on.

Moreover, MEXT 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.

✻ 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, 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.

HP Agency for Cultural Affairs homepage

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm

Minister's Secretariat

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

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

Director-General for International Affairs

Contact for International Exchange and Cooperation

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

General Assembly of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

UNESCO school ESD-related activities (removing non-native plants)
(Photo provided by: Yoshino Elementary School, Omuta city, Fukuoka Prefecture)

HP Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

HP For items with this mark, further information is available via MEXT homepage. ››› **http://www.mext.go.jp/booklet/link.htm**

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

Aiming for safe, secure and rich educational facilities, the Department of Facilities Planning and Administration promotes improvement in earthquake resistance and disaster prevention functions of school facilities including nonstructural members. It also promotes eco-schools, examines measures against aging facilities, establishes guidelines for designing school facilities, and assists in reconstruction in times of disaster and recovery. Moreover, it promotes the enhancement of national university campuses to support educational and research activities.

* Promoting the Improvement of Safe and Secure School Facilities, Corresponding to Disasters and Reconstruction Assistance

School facilities are not only places where children learn and do other activities, but also serve as temporary evacuation centers for local residents in the event of a disaster. As such, it is crucial to ensure the safety of school facilities and to strengthen their disaster resistance functions.

Through the provision of government subsidies, MEXT assists local governments to improve the earthquake resistance of public school facilities including nonstructural members such as ceiling materials. School facilities must also be multifunctional, equipped to function as both a place for education and an evacuation center. MEXT works to strengthen schools' disaster prevention functions by building escape routes, outdoor escape stairs, stockpile storages, outdoor bathrooms and portable generators.

Moreover, in the event of an earthquake or disaster, MEXT provides assistance in the prompt recovery of school facilities by swiftly gathering information on the damage situation and subsidizing a portion of the expenses needed for disaster recovery.

MEXT also promotes improving school facilities to reduce their environmental load and take into account coexistence with nature. It also promotes the establishment of environmental friendly eco-schools to utilize as teaching materials to serve as centers for global environment and energy-related education.

With facilities constructed over 25 years ago currently making up for about 70 percent of all public elementary and lower secondary schools, the aging of school facilities is a critical issue. In order to improve their maximum safety and function within a limited budget, old school structures built with a lifespan of 40 years must be renovated to withstand double the lifecycle of up to 80 years, while keeping construction costs low and minimal environmental waste. MEXT assists local governments to appropriately advance their mid-to-long-term plans of improving aging school facilities.

HP Improving Public School Facilities

HP Promoting Improvement of Eco-School Facilities

* Promoting Improvement of Facilities at National Universities and other Higher Educational Institutions

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 highly advanced medical treatments.

With facilities constructed over 25 years ago making up for about 40 percent of all higher educational institutions, aging facilities are inadequately safe in corresponding to sophisticated and diversified educational research activities, creating many problems for universities trying to promote international competitiveness and university-industry-government collaborations. The Great East Japan Earthquake also reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the earthquake resistance of university facilities, as many buildings suffered damages and communities were completely cut off from utility lifelines.

In August 2011, MEXT formulated the Third Five-Year Program for Facilities of National Universities (FY2011-FY2015). The plan aims to systematically and selectively secure a high quality and safe educational research environment while working to increase sophistication of these facilities.

HP Improving Facilities of National Universities and other Higher Educational Institutions

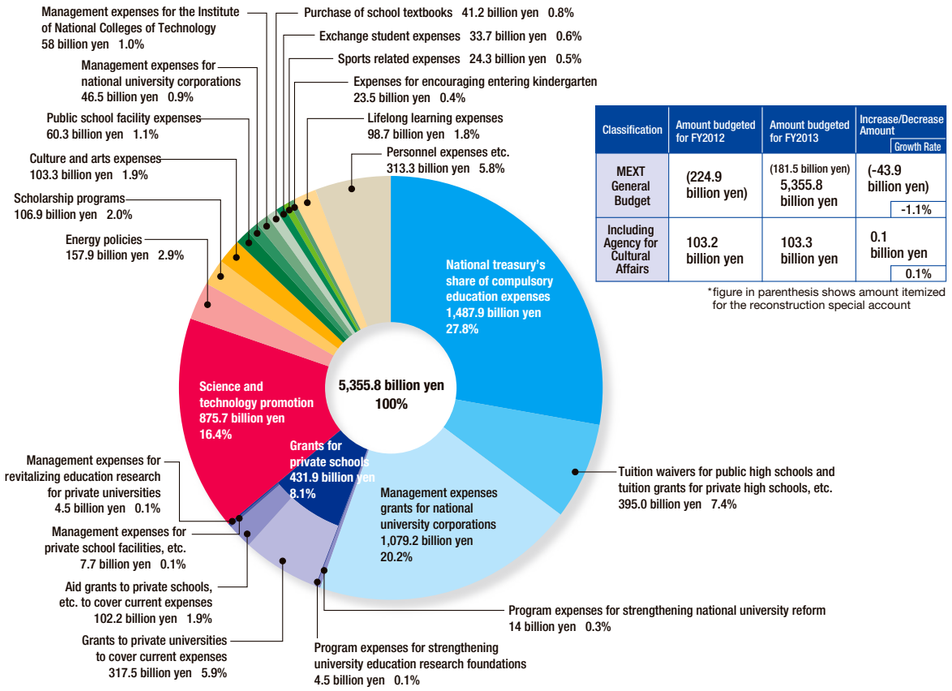
HP Guideline and Case Studies for Improving School Facilities

Utilizing school rooftop solar panels for thermal power generation and as an educational tool

Renovating aging facilities to create good educational environments

Improving advanced research environments

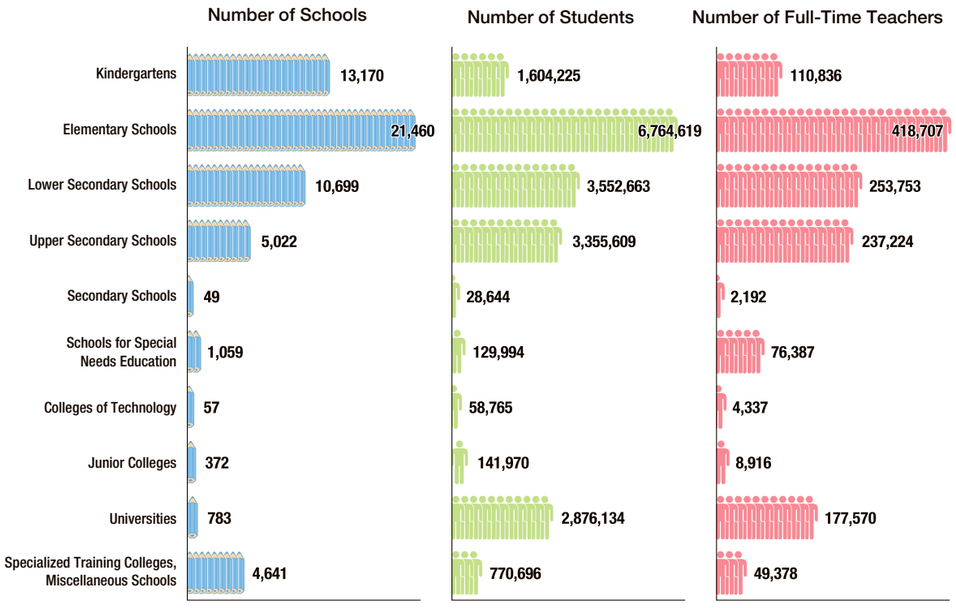
Data 1 Contents of MEXT 2013 General Budget



Classification	Amount budgeted for FY2012	Amount budgeted for FY2013	Increase/Decrease Amount / Growth Rate
MEXT General Budget	(224.9 billion yen)	(181.5 billion yen) 5,355.8 billion yen	(-43.9 billion yen) -1.1%
Including Agency for Cultural Affairs	103.2 billion yen	103.3 billion yen	0.1 billion yen 0.1%

*figure in parenthesis shows amount itemized for the reconstruction special account

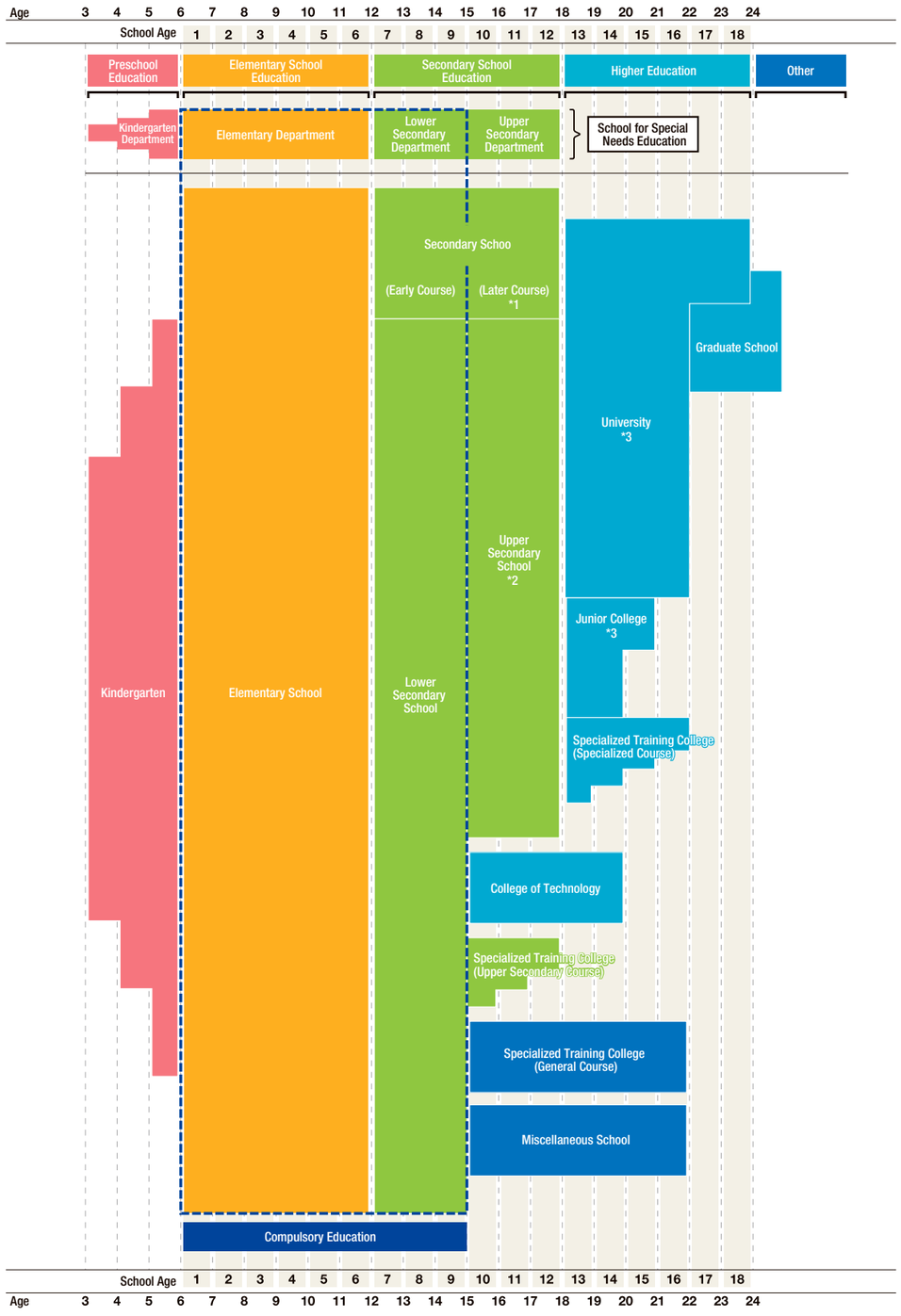
Data 2 Number of Schools, Students and Teachers (As of May 1, 2012)



* There are correspondence schools for upper secondary schools, universities and junior colleges in addition to these.

Data: FY2012 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 (NWEC)	0493(62)6719	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.jsps.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.artmuseum.go.jp/
National Institutes for Cultural Heritage	03(3822)1196	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

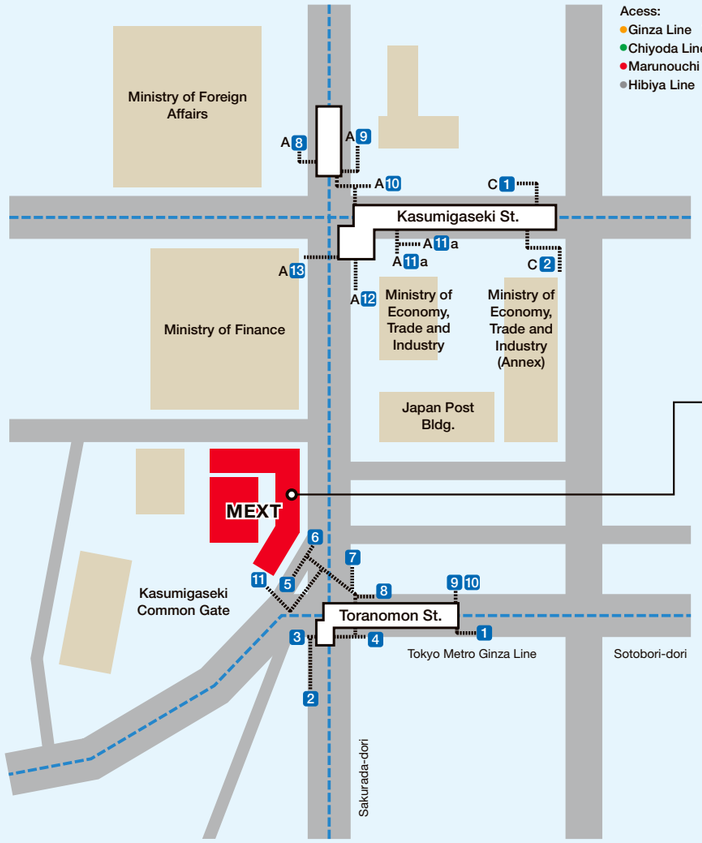
MEXT's homepage:
(Computer version) http://www.mext.go.jp/
(Cell phone version) http://keitai.mext.go.jp/

32F – 20F	(Board of Audit of Japan)
19F	
18F	Research and Development Bureau
17F	Research Promotion Bureau
16F	Science and Technology Policy Research Center
15F	Science and Technology Policy Bureau
14F	Higher Education Bureau
13F	Higher Education Bureau, Sports and Youth Bureau
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	Lifelong Learning 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
1F	

The former MEXT building

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



Acess:
- Ginza Line Toranomon St. Exit 6.11 2min. walk
- Chiyoda Line Kasumigaseki St. Exit A13
- Marunouchi Line Kasumigaseki St. Exit A13 5min. walk
- Hibiya Line Kasumigaseki St. Exit A13

Museum of MEXT

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)

From MEXT to the NEXT

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

文部科学省

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

MEXT　MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN
3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959, Japan　TEL: +81-3-5253-4111

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