FY'03/'02. Two foci exist: (1) Strategic Prioritisation of S&T, and (2) Reform of the S&T System in implementing policy.

## (1) Strategic Prioritisation of S&T

### (1)-1 Promotion of Basic Research

Basic research must be carried out in a competitive environment. In particular the amount of money allocated for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (GIASR), a major component of the competitive research fund available to the government, will be increased. For FY'02/'03, the JSPS will get 26.4 billion yen. That amount is expected to double by the end of the S&T Basic Plan. Half the competitive research fund is likely to be allocated to basic research, in both S&T and in the social sciences and humanities as well. Both national and private universities will be screened, to see if they can qualify as being among the "top 30" in Japan. The screening process will allow the government to separate out those top 30 universities, and fund them relatively heavily, so as to enable them to compete much more effectively with other world-class universities around the world, in areas that they choose to specialise in. This programme will start from FY'03/'04.

### (1)-2 Promotion of Four Priority Areas

- **Life Science**
Technologies to protect people from diseases, and for the treatment of those diseases, must be developed to bring into realisation a society where senior citizens can both live longer and enjoy their lives energetically. As a beginning toward this objective, the analysis of the structures of proteins, as well as the understanding of the functions of and development of "intelligently designed" medicines, will be accelerated.

- **Information Technology**
Japan will accelerate the development of mobile, optical, and device technologies to enable it to construct an ultra-high speed, highly reliable information/communication system. The development of those technologies is considered to be the minimal level required to enable the country to lead the world. User-friendly technologies will be further developed, as will the strengthening of technologies that guarantee personal safety, and protect the public from casualty. Competitive research funds should be provided to IAIs and universities, to strengthen the kinds of basic research that will be the most likely to lead investigators to producing "break-through technologies" for the next generation. Furthermore, there should be further strengthening of computational science in support of research in the life science sector, and in other related areas.

- **Environment**
Research on the following areas is underway in a co-operative fashion among the