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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM - JAPAN

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researchers at the University of Ottawa and four leading Japanese National Universities involved in medical research (Fukui Medical, Kobe, Gunma and Tokyo Universities).

### 5. Opportunities for Canada

In summary, the key priority areas in which Japan and Canada have significant interaction already or are expected to do so in the coming period comprise (in no special order):

- earth science and environmental variations
- Arctic science
- nuclear and energy-related science
- space science
- health-related biomedical science and
- novel forms of communication technologies

Opportunities for greater interaction exist in all these sectors than is ongoing at present. The strongest possibilities for future growth in the ongoing interactions lie in the areas of health-related biomedical science, and Arctic science. In biomedical science, neuroscience and genomics research are twin pillars of attention by the governments of both countries. Large infuxes of federal money is occurring in both Japan and Canada in these target sectors. The new CIHR has been very actively promoted and publicised in Japanese government and funding body circles the past few months (in articles published in Japanese, for e.g. by the Japan Human Science Foundation Newsletter: Human Science) and these activities should help develop even more substantial cooperation in multiple areas. Canada's world-class expertise in clinical trials conduct is a strong magnet attracting Japanese pharmaceutical and medical researchers into partnerships and alliances. Finally, if Canada is selected as the host country for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), the Japanese contacts will multiply very strongly as Japan is linked so tightly to nuclear power dependence, more than any other western-oriented developed country.