

its sole partner, but since then the list of participating countries has grown to include the UK, France and Germany. The programme is organised so as to include post-graduate researchers or post-doctoral fellows (individuals who are at the late post-grad level or in the early post-doc phase of their careers), to provide them with research experience at national universities and inter-university institutes for periods of two months. This programme, newly-opened to Canadians, will provide our young researchers with an excellent opportunity for being exposed to direct interactions with young Japanese researchers. It is hoped that this would lead to future collaborative opportunities and the establishment of future international collegial networks.

In the bilaterally important area of space science, opportunities for research interfacing have recently grown considerably between the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and Japan's National Space Development Agency (NASDA) due to the recent successful Joint Panel on Space Activity. When the International Space Station is in full operation, Canada's expertise in the areas of robotics and equipment monitoring and control hardware (and software) will be extensively demonstrated. The Japanese H-IIA-2 rocket was launched successfully early in February, 2002, even though a small malfunction caused a snag in the delivery of one of two satellites which it carried aloft. However the smooth functioning of the rocket engine causes one to be optimistic that CSA might some day not too far in the future consider using this Japanese launch capability (H-IIA) for the placement of its satellites in space. NASDA is currently deeply involved in planning the impending merger of the current three separate domestic space agencies in Japan into a unified whole.

Lastly, information and recent developments relating to the Canadian S&T community, prepared by DFAIT-TBR, is regularly disseminated to many of our "S&T clients" in this country, thanks to the recent progress of electronic communication. Elements of the S&T news which TBR collects and periodically sends us electronically, including hot links to the full reports, news releases, articles, and relevant web pages, is passed along to our appropriate contacts and counterparts here, including to the relevant government ministries. Our S&T Section summarises the key points and provides translated versions to the Japanese. This process is going a long way towards increasing awareness of Canada's S&T activity in Japan, a process that has been difficult for the post to achieve in the past. We are fully committed to continuing and expanding this duty.

## **2. Snapshot of Japan S&T in 2002**

- A) Japan R&D Budget for 2002**
- B) S&T Structure in Japan in 2002**
- C) S&T Organizations Japan in 2002**

The Japanese government has set out seven priority areas in Fiscal Year 2001/2002 on