

"success story" case studies.

The results of this preliminary evaluation of the JSTF are as follows:

1. There is a consensus that the basic rationale for the JSTF is strong;
2. There is no explicit strategy for the JSTF. Strategic planning for the JSTF should include an analysis of the present S and T relationship with Japan, a precise definition of the potential client population in Canada, an analysis of client needs and procedures for identifying them, an analysis of options available for improving science and technology relations with Japan, implementation strategies, monitoring of activities, outputs, and evaluation of intended and unintended impacts. Some of these strategic planning activities are reported to be already undertaken within the context of the Canada-Japan S and T consultative framework, and the JSTF working groups, but the program has never had sufficient administrative resources to formalize these processes, and make them evident to outside observers. The immediate unintended impact of this lack of explicit planning, and the related problem of a slow start (under-disbursement), both partly due to under-resourcing for administration, is a less positive image for the program than otherwise would be the case;
3. The JSTF is complementary to existing science and technology programs in that it attempts to provide an incentive for Canadian scientists and engineers, including those from business, to overcome the barriers of cultural and language and higher costs that are hindrances to greater communication and cooperation with Japanese counterparts.
4. The survey of 60 JSTF clients, who had completed their projects in 1990/91 and 1991/92, resulted in 42 completed returns. At that time most JSTF clients were from academic and government sectors, rather than business, and the results reflect this bias. The results may be summarized as follows:
 - the majority of respondents stated that their JSTF project would lead to more future collaboration with Japan than would otherwise have been the case;
 - most respondents stated that collaboration in research was their number one objective. Training was a priority for only a minority;
 - most importance was attached to acquiring new contacts, collaborators, and knowledge, and respondents reported a high level of achievement in each of these areas. Therefore clients report success in meeting their objectives;
 - JSTF clients are developing and maintaining their contacts and networks, and there is a high level of collaboration with Japanese partners, after project