

communities. At the next CJJC Director's-level meeting, to be held in Tokyo in the Spring of 2002, discussions will focus on how best to set and implement the agenda for improved S&T co-operation, in consultation with our Japanese counterparts. It is expected that any new framework that emerges from these discussions should serve to broaden our collaborative activities with Japan.

The promotion of activity in health-related sectors, including biomedical science, the various brain sciences, as well as in genomics/proteomics research, has been extensive in the recent past. This is because these areas of research hold the strongest promise of future benefits to the public, resulting from anticipated innovation strategies and based on mutual strengths bilaterally. It was in this context that researchers from the National Research Council (NRC), recently participated in a workshop on genomics with RIKEN and Daresbury Laboratory in the UK, under the framework of the NRC-RIKEN Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Their discussions were productive and are leading to specific future joint genomic research activities. In November 2001, a Canada-Japan workshop on Human Reproduction and Reproductive Biology was held at Fukui University, also under the auspices of a joint bilateral MOU. Three of Japan's leading universities have signed that MOU, which is held on the Canadian side with the University of Ottawa, and a possible fourth signatory, the University of Tokyo, is presently under consideration. Collaborative activity in this area of health-related biomedical science is expected to grow in the future.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will receive significant publicity and promotion in the Spring of 2002 through the visit to Japan of CIHR's President, Dr. Alan Bernstein. The introduction of CIHR to Japanese counterpart organisations includes an official visit to and presentations made at the Cabinet Office, as well as Dr. Bernstein's participation in a bio-partnering event that the post is deeply involved in putting on at the Embassy. This event should provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen the post's efforts to promote the biomedical research sector through the delivery of the message that Canada has a unique approach to, and expertise in, the management and administration of health-related and biomedical research.

Discussions are on-going in consideration of the drafting of a proposed new MOU between the CIHR and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan's leading research funding council. JSPS places a strong emphasis on the promotion of medical and health-related research. The proposed MOU is intended to provide Canada with greater opportunities to extend international collaboration with Japan, not only through the exchange of researchers but also through joint project management, personnel exchanges, bilateral scientific seminars and workshops, information sharing, and perhaps even through fostering the establishment of joint research projects.

Canada is expected to participate in the MEXT Summer Programme called: "Research Experience Fellowship for Young Foreign Researchers". Participation this year is limited to five positions, due to budgetary considerations on the Japanese side, but starting next year it may be possible to have Canada admitted to the small list of officially participating countries, allowing a greater number of people to be included in that cohort. MEXT formally introduced this programme several years ago as a bilateral one with the USA as