

4.2 Japan Science and Technology Fund

The JSTF is a \$21.6 million fund to encourage science and technology relations with Japan over the 1989/90 to 1993/94 period, by assisting Canadian scientists and engineers to travel to Japan on visits and exchanges, and to make contacts and form networks with Japanese counterparts to carry out joint projects. Although all the funding comes from DFAIT, it is an interdepartmental initiative, and its administration involves DFAIT (government component), Industry Canada (IC) for the industry component, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) for the academic component. Funding to recipients in each of these three sectors is on a matching contribution basis.

The program was initiated to shift Canadian attention toward building S&T linkages specifically with Japan, Canada's second largest economic partner and a newly emerged leader in technology. Expanded technology cooperation with Japan is important to the international competitiveness of Canadian industry. The program is designed to overcome the key barriers to cooperation, such as high costs, language and cultural differences, and the lack of information and understanding of Japanese R&D efforts. The JSTF responds to the recommendation of the Complementarity Study submitted to the Canadian and Japanese Prime Ministers, on the potential for enhanced bilateral research and development. The establishment of the JSTF also delivered a clear statement of Canada's commitment as a means to engage Japanese' interest in Canada.

In support of the bilateral S&T relationship, the JSTF funds fact-finding missions, workshops and panels which define areas and identify partners for new cooperative projects. In fact, officials indicate, the JSTF has been a vital factor in invigorating the bilateral relationship, one which the Japanese have said other countries should emulate. In terms of joint research and development, the JSTF provides incremental funding to encourage researchers to seriously consider working with Japanese rather than with traditional partners. In addition, the JSTF has been the principal source of federal government support for the CO-OP Japan Program (which places science and engineering co-op students in Japanese industry) and more recently the Japan Manufacturing Engineers Exchange, both of which provide Canadians access to Japanese facilities for extended periods.

The evaluation of the JSTF has focussed on a case study of the contributions and awards given to academics, government, and industry. It did not include an evaluation of the contribution of the JSTF to the bilateral science and technology relationship with Japan, in part as this would reach beyond the JSTF itself. Also it did not examine the cooperative student placement program since there was a separate requirement to evaluate this project. This case study has involved interviews with managers; file search; analysis of the JSTF data-base; construction of suggested performance indicators; design of a questionnaire to assess performance, which was tested with JSTF clients, who had received funding and who had completed their projects in the 1990/91 and 1991/92 fiscal years; and the undertaking of three