

The daily work of the S&T Counsellor is heavily occupied with numerous activities that include, but is not limited to, meetings, visit support functions, report preparation, intelligence scans, responsibility for the supervision of the production and oversight of the bimonthly S&T newsletter, and providing responses to the dozens of routine enquiries coming in every day, from both Canada and Japan, some of which necessitate immediate action. It is also routinely required that the S&T Counsellor meet Japanese S&T counterparts on a face-to-face basis every week, so as effectively to seek out opportunities and plan initiatives. Furthermore, attendance at various official functions such as scientific award ceremonies, workshops and symposia on discipline-specific or policy areas, is frequently required. Many such events serve to inform S&T Counsellor of recent developments in the Japanese S&T scene. The S&T Counsellor frequently is requested to make presentations on selected aspects of Canadian S&T, occasionally to write for publication articles on the same, and to accompany Canadian visitors of all levels, fields and interests to appropriate institutes or governmental offices, for introductions and information exchanges with S&T Counsellor's contacts points.

One of the S&T Counsellor's key activities for FY'01/'02 that merits highlighting was the fact that he served for two years as the elected President of the Tokyo-area S&T Diplomat's Circle (S&T DC). This assignment provided the S&TC with a tremendously broad network of contacts in innumerable institutes and ministries, and among the S&T diplomats of other embassies. The S&T Counsellor has produced very positive outcomes throughout the activities of the S&T Diplomat's Circle, including the production of a number of reports on selected areas of Japanese S&T.

Priorities of the S&T Counsellor in Tokyo:

- Activities relating to the management of the Canada-Japan S&T Agreement:
This is one of the primary tasks provided to the S&TC.
- Monitoring general S&T policy:
While meeting people, attending symposia and reading S&T articles, S&TC seeks new opportunities and learns about S&T policy formulation for the benefit of Canada.
- Biomedical and other health-related science:
S&TC works extensively to promote this sector with Japanese research institutes by organising workshops, holding meetings, and working to provide new funding opportunities. Focus in on genomics/proteomics, neuroscience and cancer.
- Earth Sciences (environment, climate change, ODP):
S&TC in in frequent contact with MEXT and related organizations; also attends meetings to promote this area. Canada has a bilateral activity in the form of a Joint Panel.
- Space Science (Earth Observation, Microgravity, Space Utilisation and others)
S&TC is heavily involved in this area, and is responsible to oversee activities of the bilateral Space Panel that meets annually and is very active.