

## TECHNOLOGY STRENGTHS

From aquaculture to robots Japan is among the best in the world. Japan is a world leader in advanced manufacturing technologies, micro-electronics, automobiles and automotive components and assemblies, energy technologies, and food processing. It is also extremely strong in construction technology, aquaculture and optoelectronics, among others.

## KEY ORGANIZATIONS

The lead organizations in Japan are:

- *Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)*  
MITI is responsible for industrial and trade policy development in Japan. It plays a key role in industrial technology development (see AIST below), and has overall responsibility for ensuring that Japan's industrial economy grows in a coherent fashion.

- *Agency of Industrial Science & Technology (AIST)*  
AIST has 16 national laboratories which are industry-oriented, a staff of some 4,000 and a budget of some \$600 million. There are 7 regional labs which are charged with technology development based on the strengths of the individual regions.

Centrally, AIST administers the "Basic Technologies for Future Industries" project, and a number of so-called "National" and "Large-Scale" projects. It is also responsible for the "Sunshine" (new energy sources) and "Moonlight" (energy conservation) technology programs. The provision of technological information and technology diffusion are also in AIST's mandate.

- *Science & Technology Agency (STA)*  
The STA, an arm of the Prime Minister's Office, has central responsibility and authority for all science and technology development in Japan. It has a budget over \$1.2 billion and some 2,200 employees. Its key missions can be summarized as follows:

- (a) planning and implementation of national S&T policies
- (b) co-ordination of government's S&T expenditures excluding Education
- (c) promoting technology development in strategic fields including atomic energy, space, oceans, etc.
- (d) bolstering basic research in Japan
- (e) co-ordinating all international S&T activities, both multilateral and bilateral.

- *Research Development Corporation of Japan (JRDC)*  
JRDC links researchers and inventors with companies. It has a number of programs which promote the transfer of research completed in the institutional sector to the private sector. JRDC also funds private sector research and development and co-ordinates technology transfer both within and outside of Japan.

- *Japan Key Technology Centre (KEYTEC)*  
KEYTEC was established in 1985 jointly by the Japanese Government and the private sector with the objective of promoting private sector technology development in strategic fields. It provides venture capital funds and loans for eligible projects, and puts together research consortia on a contract basis.