

note of the fact that Japan announced its intention to try to increase the number of Nobel Prizes its researchers win, to 30 over the coming 50 years, in the view that this would represent some indicator that its scientific community was achieving excellence.

## **5. Japan's International S&T Activities**

Japan views it as being important to promote international S&T activity in the areas of global concern, such as environment and energy, since S&T contributes toward solving those issues. Japan has been actively promoting co-operation with developed countries like the USA. In recent years however, it has paid more attention to Asian countries, particularly developing countries, to promote co-operation in science. Japan seems to think that this co-operation should contribute to further promotion of S&T in Japan. The co-operation Japan has with these countries takes place in various types of frameworks:

- **Multilateral Co-operation:**

- The United Nations
- OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)
- APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Meeting)
- ASEM (Asian-Europe Meeting)
- HFSP (Human Frontier Science Programme)
- ISTC (International Science and Technology Centre)
- ISS (International Space Station Project)
- ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Project)
- LHC (Large Hadron Collider)
- IODP (Integrated Ocean Drilling Programme)

- **Bilateral Co-operation:**

Co-operation with developed countries is mainly being carried out through the signing of S&T agreements. Japan holds bilateral S&T agreements and various Letters of Intent (there are 20 of these), with 37 countries. Among these, Japan particularly carries out a number of bilateral activities with the United States. Japan and the USA are implementing a number of programmes, such as the MEXT Summer Institute Research Programme (in which Canada has been invited to participate).

With regards to co-operation with China, the Japan-China Co-operation Agreement on S&T was signed in May 1980. The 9<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting was held in Beijing in 2000. The forum now existing between the two countries started from the 9<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting. The purpose of this forum is to provide both countries with a format for exchanging opinions for future co-operation.

The Japan-Republic of Korea Co-operation S&T Agreement exists in support of co-operation with the Republic of Korea. The first bilateral meeting under this agreement was held at the ministerial level, in 1968. The framework for bilateral co-operation was strengthened in 1988, and in 1999 an S&T forum between the two countries