

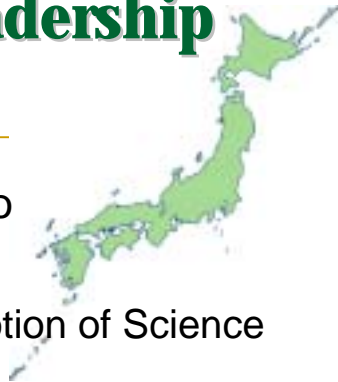


# National University Reform & President's Leadership



Motoyuki Ono  
President

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science



## “JSPS London Office 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” Royal Society, 4 June 2004

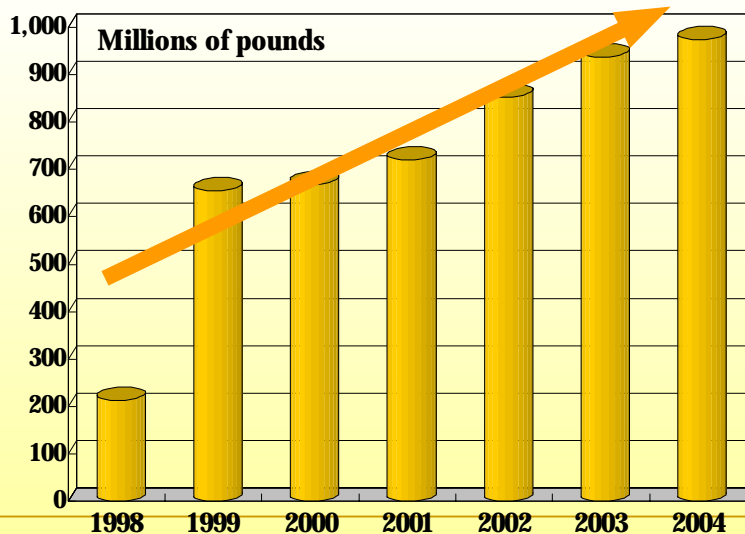


## JSPS at a Glance

- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- Research funding agency for universities and research institutes
- “Independent Administrative Institution” since October 2003 (独立行政法人)
- Nearly £ 1 billion in annual funding scale

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## Budget of JSPS



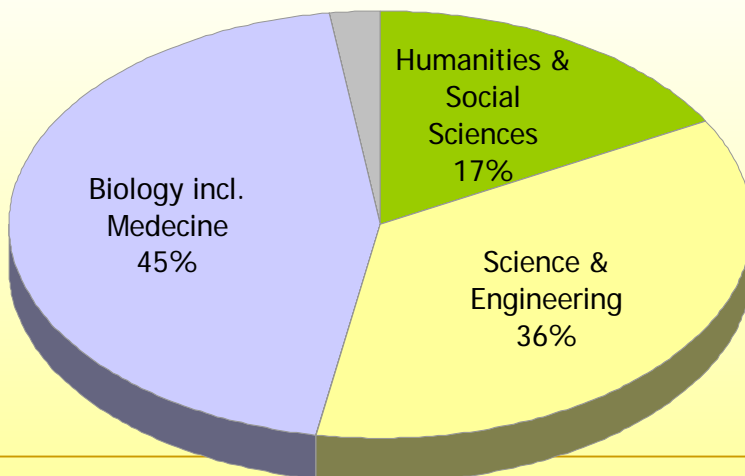
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## JSPS at a Glance

- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- Research funding agency for universities and research institutes
- “Independent Administrative Institution” since October 2003.
- Nearly £ 1 billion in annual funding scale
- Covers all fields of Natural Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences

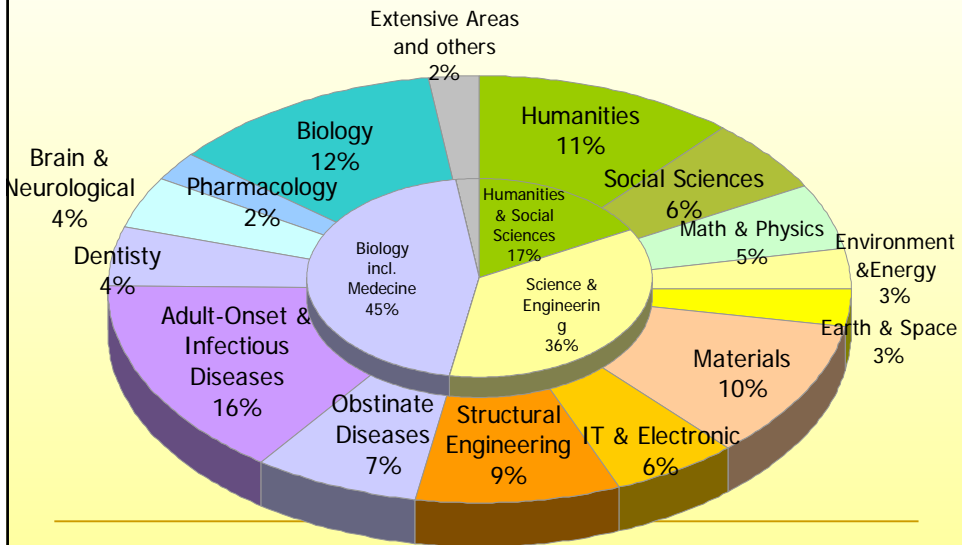
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## Research Fields Supported by Grants



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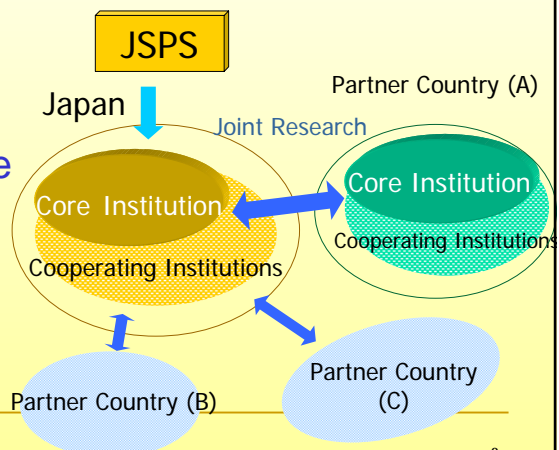
# Research Fields Supported by Grants



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## “JSPS Core-to-Core Programme”

- International Collaboration in Cutting-edge Fields
- 5 projects with the UK



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## “JSPS Core-to-Core” Case 1 Kyoto Univ. & Cambridge



- “Molecular Analysis of Cellular Response to Ionising Radiation for Forthcoming Radiotherapy of Cancer Patients”

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## “JSPS Core-to-Core” Case 2 National Institute for Basic Biology (基礎生物学研究所) & The Wellcome Trust/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute



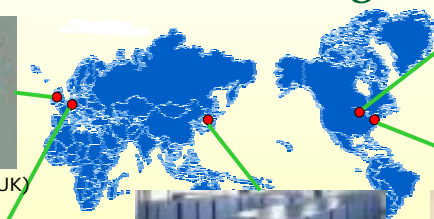
- “Promotion of Functional Genomics with Xenopus Laevis / Tropicalis”

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## “JSPS Core-to-Core” Case 3 Tsukuba Univ. & Edinburgh



Edinburgh T3E(UK)



FNAL cluster (USA)



DESY APE-mille (Germany)



Tsukuba CP-PACS (Japan)

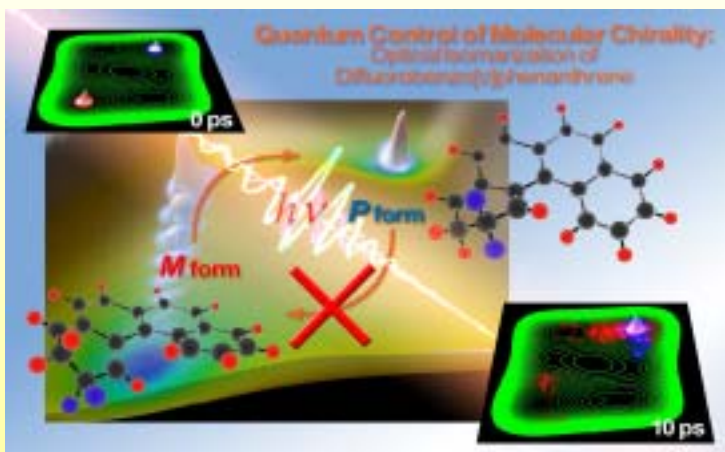


RIKEN-BNL QCDSF (USA)

- “International Research Network for Computational Particle Physics”

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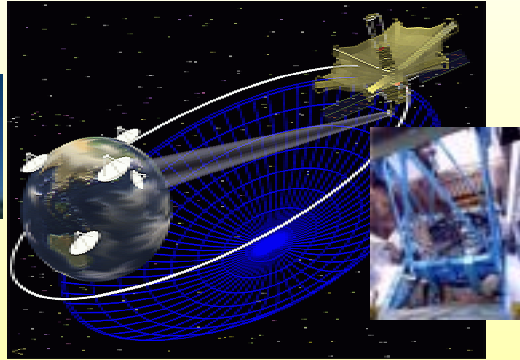
## “JSPS Core-to-Core” Case 4 Tokyo Univ. & Strathclyde (Glasgow)



- “Ultrafast Intense Laser Science”

## “JSPS Core-to-Core” Case 5

# National Astronomical Observatory & Cambridge



- “Establishment of Japanese Virtual Observatory in Relation with International Virtual Observatory”

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## JSPS London Office Symposium



- The JSPS Annual Symposium, [Sheffield University's](#) Centre for Japanese Studies, July 2003

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## Other Programmes between Japan & the UK

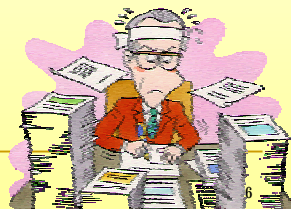
- Bilateral joint research and seminars
    - Incl. *Brighton's School of Environment*
  - Fellowships for Postdocs from the UK
  - Sending Japanese Postdocs to the UK
  - Summer Programme (with British Council)
- Well over 200 researchers are supported by JSPS under Japan-UK collaborations  
(And this year much more!)

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## “The 21st Century COE Programme”

(JSPS-MEXT Joint Initiative)

- Cultivates a competitive academic environment by creating Centres of Excellence
- 246 projects (£0.5 – 2.5 M per project a year)
- Projects contribute to the implementation of university reforms.
- Strong leadership by university president in proposal preparation process





# National University Reform

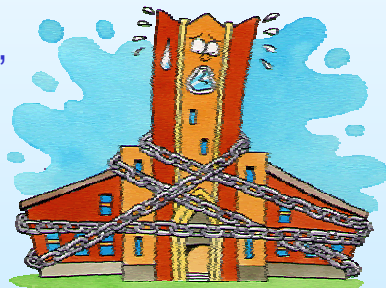
In April 2004, a new national university corporation system was started.

## University Reform, Why Needed?

- Universities were affiliated with the government

Many controls and restrictions

“Well-guarded Convoy”



## University Reform, Why Needed?

- Faculty Council held actual authority in making decisions (required unanimous consensus)

Difficult to start something new

President had little discretionary power



## National University Corporations

- Japanese national universities (87 in total) became “corporations” in April 2004

- Strengthen autonomy in university administration
- Institute a system of top-down management
- Establish clear objectives and institutional identities

## Advantages Gained

### ■ For Students

- ❑ Flexible curricula that can better meet student needs
- ❑ Better teaching (through evaluation)



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## Advantages Gained

### ■ For Faculties

- ❑ Performance-based benefits
- ❑ Short-term employment of excellent outside researchers made possible by annual salary system
- ❑ Possible to appoint foreigners to president and dean posts

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## Advantages Gained

- For Private Sector
  - Relaxation of rules preventing academics from holding concurrent posts or performing collateral duties in private sector
  - More joint research and technology transfer with companies
  - Freedom for academics to provide technical guidance and advice to venture companies and SMEs

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## Quality Assurance

- More autonomy from the government
- 6-year Mid-term Plan
- External Assessment
  - MEXT will set up a special committee to evaluate national universities.
  - Assessment results can be taken into account when considering funding.

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## New Responsibilities of Government

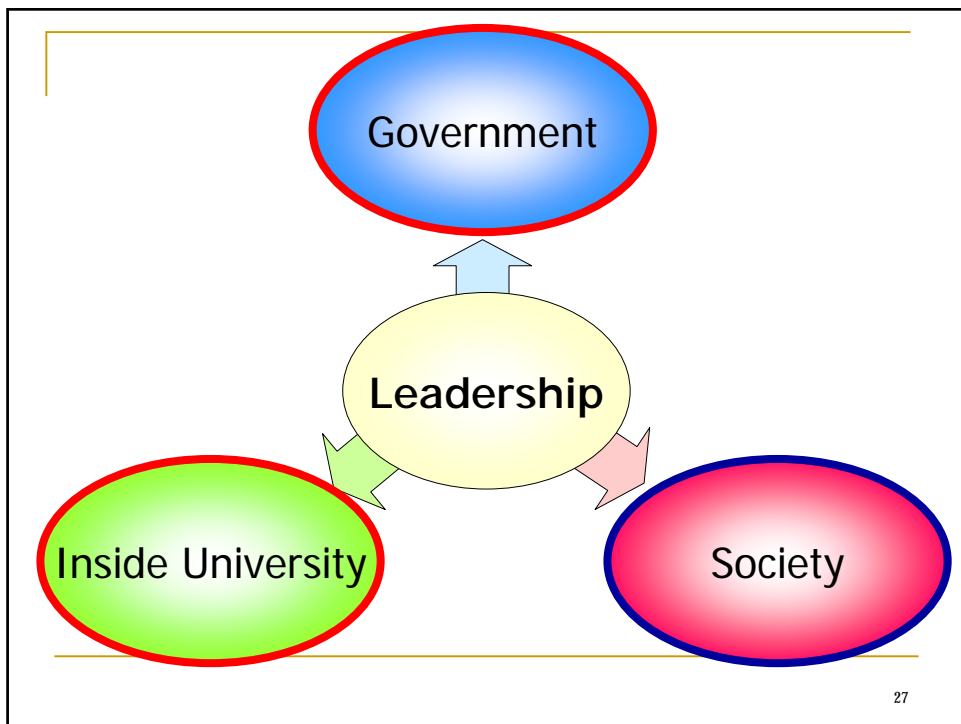
- University autonomy should not reduce government's responsibilities for HE
  - The new scheme should not be an excuse to reduce total funding from government
  - Different from other sectors' "administrative reform" (=smaller government)
- The government needs to offer a future plan to encourage universities to improve their activities
- Universities with good performance should be rewarded
- $\leftrightarrow$  Strict attitude towards poor results
- =No more equal treatment to all universities

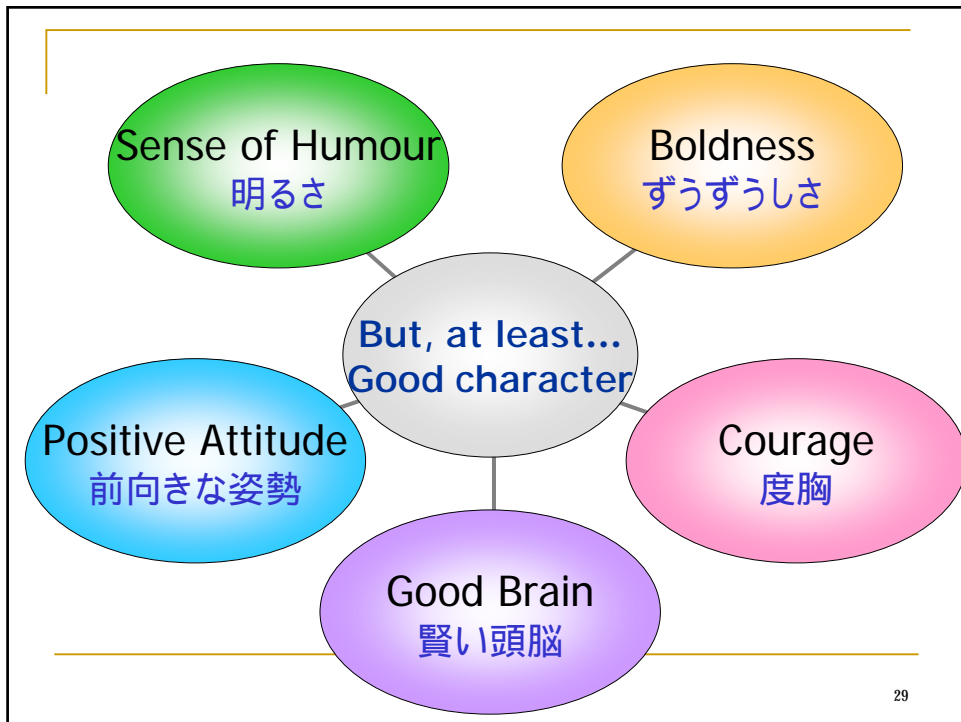
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## New Responsibilities of Universities

- Universities should
  - Exercise efficient management, and
  - Work hard to find external revenues (JSPS will be happy to work together with them)
- Efficient and effective management is necessary for public accountability
- Staff development is necessary (esp. administrative staff)
  - Accounting
  - International affairs
  - Liaison with the business sector
- Strong leadership of the president is highly expected

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- This is a once-in-a-century opportunity.
  - Breathe a spirit of energy and animation into the reform process!
  - The real tasks of reform still lie ahead!
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