Challenges of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI)

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Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI)

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Content

1. What is "KAKENHI"?

2. System Reform of KAKENHI

- (a) Countermeasures against misuse
- (b) Effective and efficient use
- (c) Accountability and transparency

3. Hot Issues

What is "KAKENHI"? (1)

- Biggest funding program in Japan

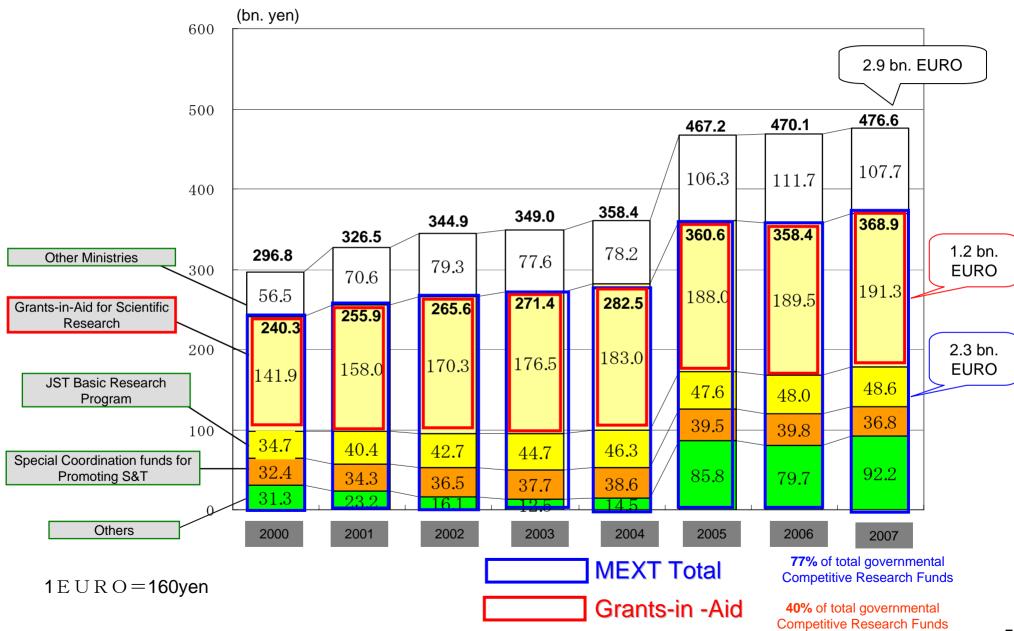
KAKENHI in FY2008 amounts to 193.2 billion yen (1.2 billion EURO)

- 5% of overall government expenses related to science and technology
- 40% of overall competitive research funds

- 100,000 new applications
 24,000 new proposals selected
 (selection ratios of new proposals: 24%) (FY2007)

- Over 56,000 research projects are supported by KAKENHI. (FY2007)

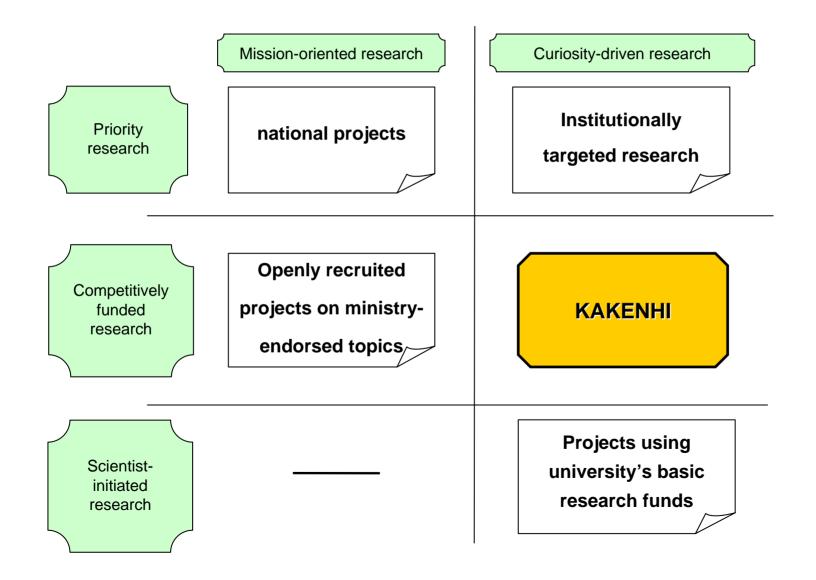
Time-trend of Competitive Research Funds



What is "KAKENHI"? (2)

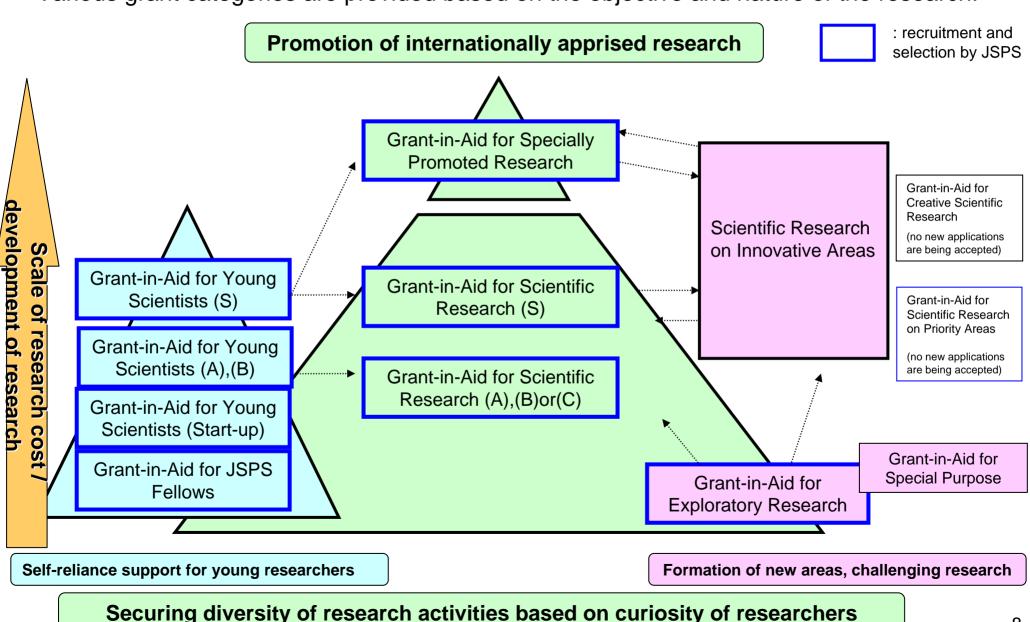
- KAKENHI covers all research fields including the social sciences and the humanities.
- KAKENHI supports "curiosity-driven research" (research based on researcher's creative ideas).
- Almost all the researchers in Japan can apply to KAKENHI.
- Peer review (6,000 reviewers)
- Selection and grant disbursement: by MEXT and JSPS

Position of KAKENHI within government's research framework



Categories for KAKENHI (FY2008)

Various grant categories are provided based on the objective and nature of the research.



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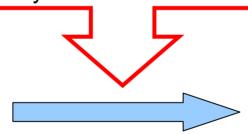
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System Reform of KAKENHI

- Is it a good policy to increase basic science budget?
- Can researchers manage public money?
- What kind of "outcome" will you have?

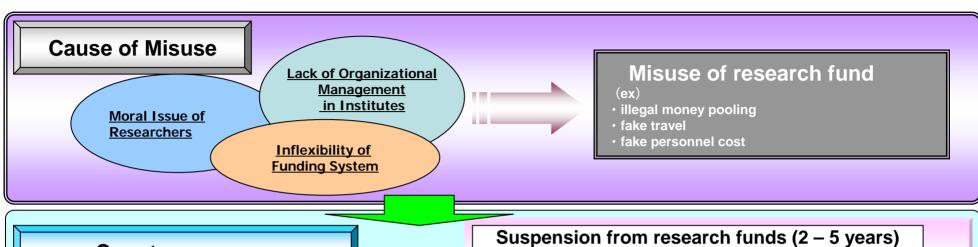


- Increasing budget
 - cases of misuse

System reform of KAKENHI

- (a) Countermeasures against misuse
- (b) Effective and efficient use
- (c) Accountability and transparency

(a) Countermeasures against misuse



Countermeasures

O Penalties for researchers

- Management system of institutes
- **OFunding System**

- Suspensions from KAKENHI (since 2003)
- Suspensions from all MEXT's competitive funds (since 2004)
- Suspensions from all governmental competitive funds (since 2006)

Strengthening management system of institutes

- Obliging Institutional Management < for KAKENHI>(since 2004)
- "Guidelines for Management and Auditing of Public Research Fund at Research Institutes" (2007) <for all MEXT's Research Fund>

Checking "unreasonable overlap" and "excessive concentration" through e-Rad system (since 2008)

Funding System Reform

- Simplifying procedure for "carry over" <KAKENHI>
- Enlarging "Indirect Cost"
 - <all governmental competitive funds; aiming 30%>
- "Study Group for Efficient Use of Research Fund" for standardizing rules of research fund (since March 2008)

(b) Effective and efficient use

- System reform of KAKENHI

<Simplifying procedure for "carry over">

A research activity cannot be completed within the year for an un expected reason

- the research period can be extended
 - the grant can be carried forward to the next fiscal year

<Changing the breakdown of use>

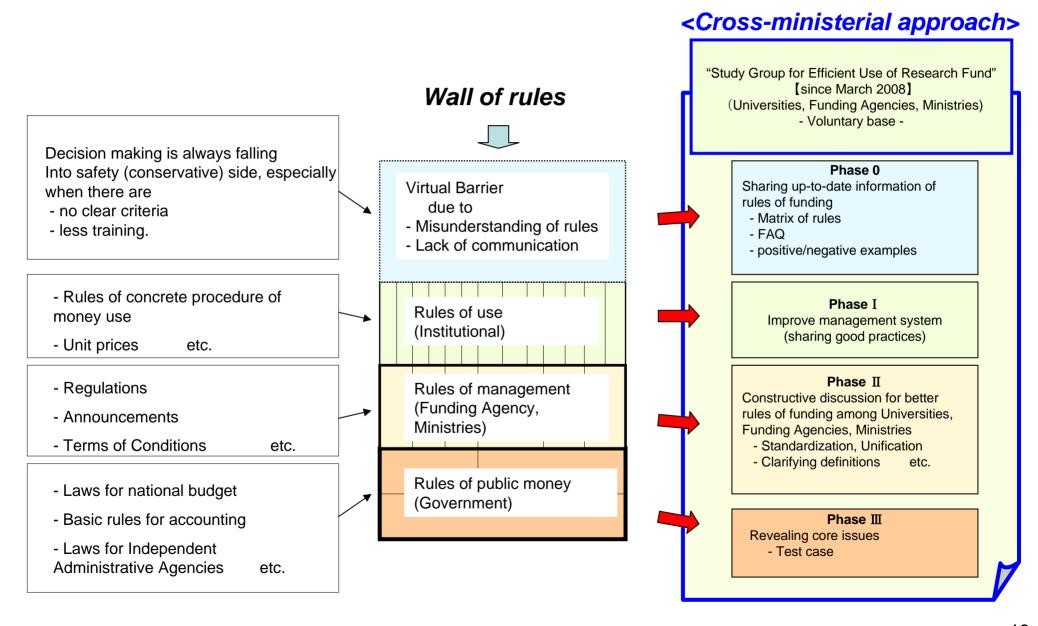
Breakdown of use of the initially set expenses can be freely changed to a reasonable extent

(~ FY2007: 30% FY2008 ~ : under 50%)

- Cross-ministerial approach

"Study Group for Efficient Use of Research Fund"

Wall of rules for Research Funding



(c) Accountability and transparency

- Open access to research results

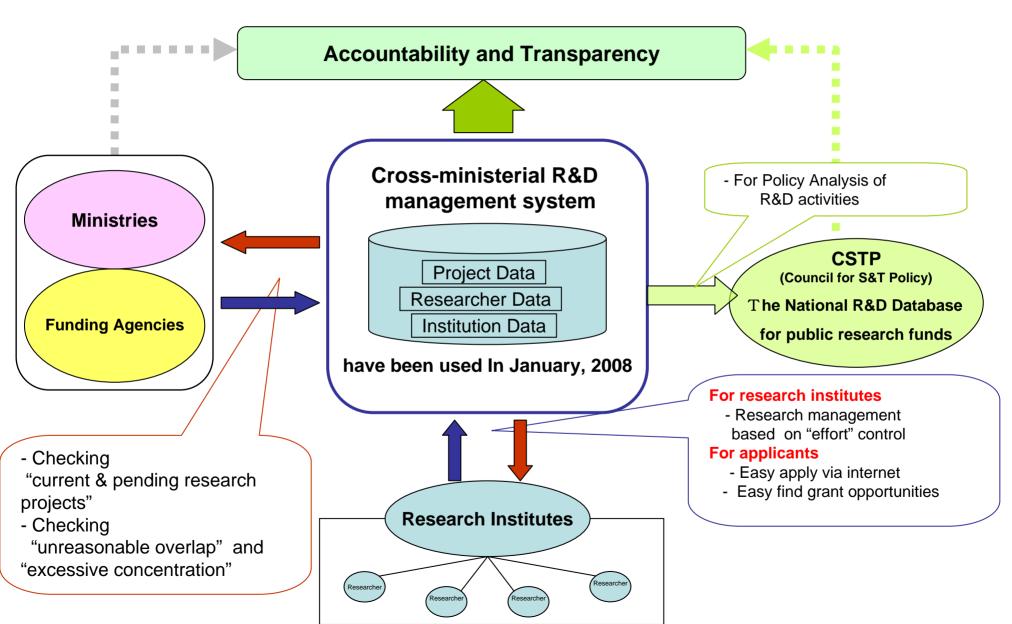
<Retrieval of yearly progress reports on the website>
Reports of research progress supported by KAKENHI are available using on-line search function. (http://seika.nii.ac.jp)

<Welcome to University Lab —Science That Inspires and Inspirits>

School children visit and experience firsthand a university laboratory.

The results of research supported by KAKENHI are described in easy-to-understand language.

Cross-ministerial R&D management system (e-Rad)



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Hot Issues

- New category for innovating and challenging research

"Scientific Research on Innovative Areas" (FY2008~)

- To support the research which could lead a breakthrough but uncertain of success
- "Masking" screening (trial) (reviewers do not have applicant's name, institute, past achievement etc.)