

1) Outline of KAKENHI

Across Japan, a wide variety of research activities are carried out at universities and other research institutions. Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) is one system that supports such researchers activities. Its coverage spans a full range of creative and pioneering research from basic to applied fields including the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

There are various types of research activities, such as those conducted based on researchers' own creative ideas, projects with established objectives in specific fields, or development of specific products. All such activities have originated in curiosity-driven research (research based on researchers' creative ideas). KAKENHI supports all research projects conducted by curiosity-driven research, and plays a vital role in planting the seeds and nurturing the buds for future development of science.

2) Allocation of KAKENHI

KAKENHI is awarded based on the rigorous screening of research plans contained in researchers' grant applications. KAKENHI is, therefore, a competitive funding system. Its disbursements comprise nearly 40 percent of the Japanese government's competitive funding budget, making KAKENHI Japan's largest research-funding program, with an FY2009 budget of ¥197 billion.

Under the program, application screening is conducted in a fair and impartial manner. It is carried out by researchers who are themselves specialists in the applicants' fields. Thus, KAKENHI screening takes the form of a "peer review" process. About 6,000 researchers serve as KAKENHI examiners in the application screening process.

In FY 2008, about 100,000 new KAKENHI applications were submitted, among which 20,000 were selected for grants. Including ongoing research projects that take several years to complete, KAKENHI currently supports about 60,000 research projects.

3) Research results

■ Research performance

Many successful results are created by KAKENHI-funded academic studies, and published as papers or introduced at academic conferences every year.

(Number of papers about KAKENHI research results)

138,000 in FY2002 ➔ 160,000 in FY2006

The themes of the KAKENHI-funded research projects and the outlines of their results are on a website of the National Institute of Informatics (NII) known as the KAKENHI database.

The KAKENHI database in the National Institute of Informatics: [HYPERLINK "https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/"](https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/)

■ Newspaper reports

There are many newspaper reports about the results of the KAKENHI research projects.

·Number of reports in FY2009 (April - June 2009)

Apr.	May.	Jun.
104	169	167

(Six subject newspapers: (The Asahi Shimbun, The Sankei Shimbun, The Tokyo Shimbun, The Nikkei, The Mainichi Newspaper, The Yomiuri Shimbun)

The results of recent KAKENHI projects are presented briefly from the next page.