

Fund in London^{31; 32}. British molecular biologist Sydney Brenner wrote a letter to the European Commission in February 1986 to urge creation of an EC program aimed at a "Map of Man"³³. Genome research programs on bacteria, yeast, and other organisms developed at EC over the next year. The human genome research program elicited concern in the European Parliament about its social and ethical implications. The EC program ultimately set aside over 7 percent of its budget to scrutinize these impacts, changed its name from "predictive medicine" to "human genome analysis" to address concerns among the German Green Party. With these changes and some other minor stipulations, the EC human genome program began in June 1989³⁴⁻³⁷.

The process in Japan was complex. Japan was the first nation to have a government program dedicated to automating the process of DNA sequencing. Akiyoshi Wada was appointed director of a program that began in April 1981 for this purpose, sponsored by Japan's Science and Technology Agency and carried out at the RIKEN Institute in Tsukuba City. (By contrast, the first government funds for automation of DNA sequencing came in a 1984 grant to Caltech.)

When debate about the genome project began in North America and Europe in 1985, and especially when it picked up in 1986 and 1987, Japan's Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture (Monbusho), which supports the vast majority of university-based scientific research, appointed an advisory committee chaired by Osaka University professor Kenichi Matsubara. Monbusho began a modest genome research effort in April 1989, and the Science and Technology Agency expanded its genome research efforts that same year. The Ministry of Health and Welfare initiated an intensified effort to support hunts for disease-associated genes, and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry began planning for its own genome initiative in 1990, although its initiation was delayed by competition for funds. Japan's agriculture ministry began an effort to map the rice genome, funded largely by private funds gathered at sporting events.