

Currently, one of the goals of the Science and Technology Basic Plan is to build “a nation securing safety and quality of life.” In order to achieve this, it is necessary that Japan should “contribute to an environment that will enable people in the world to extensively enjoy benefits of science and technology while maintaining their respective cultures and value systems.”

“Science and technology for society and in society” will be a necessity in the future, and the sciences, humanities, and social sciences should be promoted together to thoroughly further revive society.

Meanwhile, in the Basic Policy on the Promotion of Culture and the Arts based on the Fundamental Law for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts, it is supposed that the results of scientific research should be used in the effective preservation and application of cultural assets.

Moreover, the use of telecommunication technology in cultural and artistic activities should be promoted, and various measures must be considered to achieve this.

In a manner of speaking, culture and the arts are actually “cultural resources.” In the distant past, culture and the arts, and science

and technology were together referred to as “art.” However, they have become differentiated over a long period. Nevertheless, we expect that the fields of culture and the arts, and science and technology will be reunited, and new values will be invented.

Meanwhile, up to now, Japan has actively adopted science and technology in industries and rapidly strengthened its ability to compete in the global industrial products market. Consequently, Japan has secured physical raw material resources such as energy and mineral resources from foreign countries.

Accordingly, many believe that Japan does not have many resources—the only dominant resource being human resources—and that Japan has secured material resources, which are the basis of our survival, by using human resources.

However, the increase in the average age of the population (an aging population), and the intensification of global competition, which occurs because developing countries have cheap labor costs compared to ours, will not make the maintenance of our current ability to compete in global markets an easy task.

Then again, Japan has attractive cultural resources that are not inferior to those of European nations, which we should use more effectively than Europeans do, and we should create new value so as to secure an economic base in the future for Japan. In this context, it is extremely important to fuse the unique cultural resources of Japan to science and technology, resulting in the creation of new added value. In addition to that, cultural resources with great historical value should be maintained to their maximum potential, as they will become the next generation’s assets.

Culture and the arts, and science and technology have differed greatly, so to reunite these fields, we must create a new common platform that unifies culture and the arts, and science and technology.

Based on the abovementioned situation, the Subdivision on Resources, as one of the subdivisions of the Council for Science and Technology whose mission is the overall promotion of science and technology, has been investigating the “promotion of science and technology that supports the preservation, application, and creation of cultural resources.” The purpose of the investigation is to promote science and

technology related to cultural resources.

Based on investigation of the abovementioned, the Subdivision on Resources proposes future directions for the development of science and technology that supports the preservation, application, and creation of cultural resources, described in next pages.

Also, regarding science and technology, and culture and the arts, the notion exists that the achievements of science and technology may be made easier for the general public to understand through the application of culture and the arts. However, from the abovementioned points in this report, the subdivision presents its proposals on the promotion of the science and technology that supports the preservation, application and creation of cultural resources. And, rather than encompassing all of the science and technology that support the preservation, application and creation of cultural resources, the subdivision reports on the promotional measures only about the science and technology that progresses remarkably recently.

