

Foreword

It has been six months since the Abe Administration began. The new administration is focusing on monetary policy, fiscal policy and growth strategy, which are the so-called “Three Arrows,” that will drive aggressive and rapid reform in order to strengthen Japan.

Innovation is essential for growth-strategy arrow, and the government aims to make Japan “the most innovation-friendly country in the world.” In order to drive innovation, it is important to promote science and technology integrally with innovation, resulting in economic growth that will strengthen Japan's competitiveness. We will make every effort to continuously generate superior results, such as establishing Human iPS cells created by Shinya Yamanaka, M.D., Ph.D., a professor at Kyoto University who received the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

University reform is also extremely important in order to promote science and technology, which are the foundation of innovation, which is necessary for Japan to grow. The university reforms include the promotion of an educational environment to support globalization, and the promotion of an education/research environment that fosters innovation. The Education Rebuilding Implementation Council intensively discussed future university education along with the challenges mentioned above and has established the third term proposal.

This White Paper is entitled “Science and Technology as a Foundation for Innovation” and it summarizes trends around Japan's science and technology polices, lists science and technology related challenges in Japan, and directs the reform of Japan's science and technology policies. These discussions are based on the stimulation of science and technology activities, the enhancement of an environment that enables research and development to be creative and ingenious, the establishment of a global research network, and the development of talented personnel who can foster innovation. In particular, we have tried to make the situational analysis as concrete as possible with case examples and comparisons with other nations.

The government will make every effort to support the world's best research and development activities in order to build a foundation of innovation that will make Japan “the most innovation-friendly country in the world.”

I sincerely hope that the White Paper will help you to understand the current measures we are taking in order to promote science and technology, and that our efforts will also serve as a reference for your efforts in the future.

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