

Foreword

Science, technology and innovation form an important pillar of the growth strategy, one of three arrows of Abenomics. Making Japan “the most innovation-friendly country in the world” would, I believe, lead to sustainable growth and enhance the global presence of Japan.

The fiscal year of 2014 is one in which science and technology in Japan achieved brilliant success and brought benefits to our lives, including the Nobel Physics prize-winning invention of blue light-emitting diodes by three physicists: Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura.

To create such innovation through science and technology, universities and public research institutions, responsible for spearheading research and fostering human resources must take into account what society wants these organizations to contribute significantly, promptly and flexibly. For this purpose, the ministry has intensified university reforms, including governance reform and integrated reforms of high-school and university education and university enrollment selection, as well as founding national R&D institutes.

In terms of science and technology, quite a few issues emerged, including social trust damaged by research misconduct and other incidents.

This year marks the 20th anniversary since the Science and Technology Basic Law was enforced to declare the basic stance of Japan as an “Advanced Science and Technology-oriented Nation”; nationally and internationally. The Science and Technology Basic Plan, implemented according to the Basic Law, is currently in the last year of its 4th enforcement and the 5th plan is under discussion. In this respect, this fiscal year is a juncture year.

To steer science, technology and innovation policies in Japan to the next step in this juncture year, the white paper for this fiscal year titled “Toward the Nation in Socioeconomic Innovation through Science and Technology: Outcomes of the S&T Basic Plan over 20 Years and Future STI” describes the results of science and technology over 20 years of the Science and Technology Basic Law in Japan, analyzes the policies taken in the Science and Technology Basic Plans and their achievements and based on these, and foresees the future of science, technology and innovation in Japan in around 2030.

The government will continue striving all-out to create a sequence of innovation in Japan.

I hope that this white paper helps the Japanese people understand the state of their government's policies for promoting science and technology and that it helps all concerned in their future endeavors.

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