

Foreword

To sustain and advance Japan as an advanced science- and technology-oriented nation, an all-out effort will need to be made to generate innovation through promoting science and technology. Such will be indispensable if Japan is to sustain and further develop itself as an abundant society amidst an unprecedented declining birthrate and aging population.

Last year, S&T advances made by Japanese researchers yielded such milestone results as the generation pluripotent stem cells and the launch lunar explorer satellite KAGUYA (SELENE), which takes high-resolution pictures of the moon's surface. In order to produce such fruitful scientific results in the future and to give them practical applications, it will be essential to cultivate an environment conducive to creating and advancing innovation, one in which universities, research institutes, corporations and other regional and national entities operate in consortium to optimize their various capabilities.

Viewing the evolving world around us, there is a formidable storm of fierce international competition, characterized by such developments as rapidly advancing information technology, globalization and the rise of BRICs (Brazil, Russian Federation, India and People's Republic of China), that obstructs Japan's path into the future.

This White Paper, themed *The State of Science and Technology in Transcending the Storm of Fierce International Competition*, establishes a policy for Japan to cope with global trends, particularly with respect to the large paradigm shifts in S&T policy by the United States, China and other countries, which presuppose S&T as being the wellspring for both competition and innovation.

It is hoped that the contents of this White Paper will help to better familiarize the public with science and technology and to give them a deeper understanding of related policies.

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Kisaburo Tokai

Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology