
Foreword

Science and technology play important roles in solving a variety of problems in the society and in securing the safety in our daily living as well as the economic growth. Since Japan is not a resource-rich country, it is “know-how and human resources” that support our future development, and thus, enhancement of scientific and technological capability is crucial for our growth in the future. Turning our eyes to the world, we can see that governments are focusing very much on science and technology not only in the United States and Europe but also in many Asian countries. Therefore, Japan should not be an exception to make efforts to bring out further development of science and technology.

Since the change in the political leadership, the Japanese government has reinforced the work on training talented human resources under the fundamental philosophy of “from ‘hardware’ to ‘software/human.’” At the same time, it is working on enhancement of R&D and basic research activities in relation to innovative technologies to promote “green innovation” and “life innovation,” which are to be the drives of our growth, in addition to the active enhancement of securing transparency and efficiency in relation to the science and technology policy.

In a globalized and highly advanced, complex society, it is necessary for talented people to work in partner each other in a variety of situations to create new values. Not only universities and research institutions but also the society as a whole needs to work actively on creation of such environment. White Paper on Science and Technology 2010 is titled “A New Frontier to Be Extended by Value-creating Human Resources~How Science and Technology Should Be for Japan to Make a New Start~”, placing the main focus on the issues related to human resources in addition to the principal developments in relation to promotion of science and technology.

Currently, the Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan, which will start in the fiscal year 2011, and other important policies are being discussed in the government office. We are determined to work even more actively on promotion of science and technology while gaining understanding and participation of the Japanese citizens. We hope that this White Paper will be of any help for the citizens to understand the current situation surrounding the science and technology policy of Japan and for people concerned as a reference of there future activities.

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