



Part 2 describes the measures taken to promote S&T (science and technology; the same shall apply hereinafter) in FY 2010 in accordance with the 3rd Science and Technology Basic Plan.



Chapter 1 Development of Science and Technology Policy

Section 1 The S&T Basic Plan

The S&T policy in Japan is administered comprehensively in a planned manner pursuant to the S&T Basic Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan”), which is determined every five years based on “The Science and Technology Basic Law” (Law No. 130, effective on November 15, 1995).

The 3rd S&T Basic Plan (Cabinet Decision of March 2006) clearly indicates six major objectives to be achieved with the S&T policy, based on the dual guidelines of “S&T to be supported by the public, returning benefits to society” and “Emphasis on fostering human resources and competitive research environments—Shift of emphasis from ‘hard’ to ‘soft’ resources; greater significance of individuals at institutions.” Also, to realize these goals, enhancement of basic research, strategic priority setting of S&T, and development of human resources to lead S&T have been posted, and along with this, active efforts have been promoted at relevant institutions.

Since FY 2010 is the last year for the 3rd S&T Basic Plan, in September 2010, the Prime Minister requested the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) a report in response to Consultation No. 11 “Regarding Basic Policy for Science and Technology” toward the formulation of the next period of the Basic Plan starting in FY 2011. After that, research examination was conducted at the council for about a year and the report on Consultation No. 11 was submitted on December 24, 2011.

In the report, changes in the situation surrounding S&T and the results and issues of the 3rd Basic Plan are overviewed, and after laying out five visions for a future Japan should aim for through S&T policies, “environment / energy” and “medical care / nursing care / health” are set as “2 major innovations as pillars of growth” and other issues which should be addressed with equal importance are laid out as “response to the essential issues facing Japan.” To achieve these, 3 basic principles for the future S&T policies are laid out and, in concrete terms, addressing a shift from the existing area-focused prioritization to the issue-oriented prioritization, system reform for promoting S&T innovation, and strategic development of globally integrated activities are further proposed. In addition, the basic plan proposes to cope with important issues and, as an “inseparable” matter, to promote “enhancement of basic research and human resource development” including drastic enhancement of basic research based on a long-term perspective, development of human resources leading future S&T such as young researchers, and establishment of international-level research environment and infrastructure. Furthermore, based on the recognition that “development of policies to be created and promoted together with society” is important, while the public participation in these policies, S&T communication activities, and reformation of establishment of a promotion system for R&D are being promoted, with regard to an increase in investment in R&D, the Basic Plan clearly indicates it is aimed that the ratio of the total amount of public and private investment in R&D against GDP should be 4% or higher, the ratio of the governmental R&D expenditure against GDP should be 1%, and the total amount of the governmental R&D expenditure during the term of the Fourth Basic Plan should be around 25 trillion yen. (This is a provisional calculation assuming the ratio of the governmental R&D expenditure against GDP is 1% and the average growth rate of nominal GDP is 2.8%

during the term of the Fourth Basic Plan.) (Figure 2-1-1)

In March 2011, the 4th Basic Plan was to be drawn up following the report; however, it was decided to re-examine due to the “2011 Great Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake”. (“Regarding ways to deal with the ‘Great Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake,’” March 31, 2011, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy and Expert CSTP Members.)¹

● Figure 2-1-1/Outline of the “Science and Technology Basic Policy Report”



¹ It was suggested the re-examination of the 4th Basic Plan be conducted by August 2011 at a conference regarding “operation of S&T policies at present” (May 2, 2011, State Minister in Charge of Science and Technology Policy and Expert CSTP Members)