

Preface

The 2016 White Paper on Science and Technology reports on policies and measures that were implemented for promoting science and technology on the basis of the provisions in Article 8 of the Science and Technology Basic Law (Law No. 130, effective on November 15, 1995).

Part I focuses on the trends in the important policies and measures related to science and technology and, thus, provides background knowledge with which one may better understand the content of Part II, which elaborates on the measures that were taken for the promotion of science and technology.

The 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan, whose implementation started in fiscal 2016, defines the “super smart society” that Japan aims at realizing before the rest of the world. Part I of the White Paper on Science and Technology envisions the future of a “super smart society” in Japan and describes the direction in which efforts are being made to realize such a society.

The feature story at the beginning of this white paper outlines the research conducted by the Japanese scientists who were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics and the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine last year. Efforts that are required in order to continue fostering Nobel prize-winning scientists in Japan are summarized.