

Foreword



末松信介

Shinsuke Suematsu

The realization of a science and technology nation is one of the key pillars of the Kishida Administration's growth strategy. Science, technology, and innovation are the engine of Japan's growth, and are indispensable in tackling the challenges we face, such as the novel coronavirus infection, climate change and natural disasters.

The 6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan calls for the realization of Society 5.0, which is a "society that is sustainable and resilient against threats and unpredictable and uncertain situations, that ensures the safety and security of the people, and that enables each and every one of them to realize well-being", through the power of science, technology, and innovation.

Meanwhile, regarding research capacity, Japan's global ranking in the paper index, which is a major indicator of research capacity, is declining and there are concerns about the decline in the research capacity. Science, technology, and innovation are Japan's lifeline and strengthening the research capacity is a pressing issue.

Part 1 of this white paper analyzes the current state of Japan's research capacity from various perspectives, including comparisons with major countries, and introduces initiatives aimed at realization of a science and technology nation, such as initiatives toward realization of research universities comparable to those of the world and to support young researchers. I hope that this white paper will help people understand the current state of science, technology, and innovation policies.