

Summary of Science and Technology Ministers' Round Table Meeting

September 11, 2006

The Third Science and Technology Ministers' Round Table Meeting was hosted by the Japanese Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Iwao Matsuda at the Kyoto International Conference Hall on September 11th. The meeting was attended by the science and technology ministers and their delegates of 28 countries. (Participants list is attached.)

The ministers gave their views on challenges and top priorities in their science and technology policies, of which the following is a summary.

- Promotion of science and technology is given high policy priority whether in developed or developing countries.
- For the promotion of science and technology, education, above all science and mathematics at primary education, plays important role.
- Brain drain becomes serious challenge for developing countries and countries in transition, while securing talented young scientists is paramount. Security risks such as regional conflicts and civil wars cause severe brain draining.
- Japan's role in cooperation with developing countries in science and technology is highly appreciated and further contribution in this respect is expected.
- Focus of the economic cooperation should be shifted towards more knowledge infrastructure from physical infrastructure which Japan has been playing a significant role.

Minister Matsuda encouraged participants to share their success stories in science and technology policies through internet. He called upon that interested party join the effort to establish open access data base to facilitate international joint research and exchange of researchers.

Nationality	Minister/Vice Minister/State Secretary
BOTSWANA	Mr. Andrew SESINYI Deputy Permanent Secretary for Research, Science and Technology
BURKINA FASO	Mr. Malick TRAORE Technical advisor to Minister of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research
CANADA	Dr. Arthur CARTY Science Advisor to the Government of Canada
CROATIA	Dr. Dragan PRIMORAC Minister of Science, Education and Sport
EGYPT	Prof. Hany Mahfouz HELAL Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
GUATEMALA	Ms. Maria del Carmen Acena de Fuentes Minister of Education
INDONESIA	Dr. Idwan SUHARDI Deputy State Minister for the Utilization and Dissemination of Science and Technology
IRAQ	Dr. Ghanim Alwan AL-JUMAILY Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
JAPAN	Mr. Iwao MATSUDA Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy
KENYA	Prof. Crispus M. KIAMBA Permanent Secretary
KUWAIT	Dr. Ismael Khudhur AL-SHATTI State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister
LIBYA	Prof. Ma'atoug Mohamed MA'ATOUG Secretary, General People's Committee for Manpower, Training and Employment
LITHUANIA	Mrs. Roma ZAKAITIENE Minister of Education and Science
MALAYSIA	Dato' Sri Dr. Jamaluddin bin Dato' Mohd Jarjis Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation
NEW ZEALAND	Dr. Helen ANDERSON Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology
OMAN	Dr. Rawyah Bint Saud AL-BUSAIDI Minister of Higher Education

PAKISTAN	Prof. Atta-ur-RAHMAN Federal Minister Chairman of the Higher Education Commission and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Science and Technology
POLAND	Prof. Michal SEWERYŃSKI Minister of Science and Higher Education
SAMOA	Mr. To'omata Alapati TO'OMATA Minister of Education
SERBIA	Mr. Aleksandar POPOVIĆ Minister of Science and Environmental Protection
SINGAPORE	Dr. Philip YEO Chairman, A*STAR (Agency for Science & Technology and Research)
SOUTH AFRICA	Mr. Eugene NGCOBO Member of Parliament & Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Science & Technology, National Assembly, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
SRI LANKA	Prof. Tissa VITARANA Minister of Science and Technology
SUDAN	Lt-Gen. Abdelrahman SAEED Minister of Science and Technology
THAILAND	Dr. Pravich RATTANAPIAN Minister of Science and Technology
U.A.E.	Dr. Tayeb A KAMALI Vice Chancellor, Higher Colleges of Technology
U.S.A	Dr. John H. MARBURGER, III Science Advisor to the President and Director Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
VIET NAM	Dr. Le Dinh TIEN Vice Minister of Science and Technology