

## Summary of the Science and Technology Ministers' Round Table Meeting

October 5, 2008

Cabinet Office

Government of Japan

The Science and Technology Minister's Roundtable Meeting was held at the Kyoto International Conference Center on October 5, with the participation of representatives from 31 countries around the world. (The list of participants is in Attachment 1.) The participants exchanged views on how international science and technology cooperation should be conducted in order to resolve global issues.

We discussed at the Ministers' Roundtable Meeting from the perspective of what role science and technology can play in resolving global issues, such as i) the relationship between global issues and science and technology, ii) human resource development in developing countries and iii) how to strengthen collaboration between developed countries and developing countries such as African countries through science and technology cooperation. As a result of the exchange of views on these issues, the participants reached a shared awareness of the following.

- 1) Science and technology have an extremely important role to enable us to understand global issues which we face, such as climate change, and to work out solutions to those issues. However, as scientific and technological knowledge is not evenly distributed geographically and there are a number of problems that cannot be resolved by one country or one region alone, it is more important than ever before to significantly strengthen science and technology cooperation between individual countries.
- 2) Developed countries should make further efforts to build science and technology partnerships with developing countries in light of the

importance of science and technology capabilities for developing countries to achieve sustainable development and prosperity along with their high expectations in such partnerships.

- 3) Efforts by developing countries to enhance their own science and technology capabilities are essential for their sustainable development and also necessary in order to make cooperation with developed countries more effective.

In addition, it is important for developed countries to share and use their experiences of science and technology cooperation as a reference for promoting science and technology cooperation with developing countries in ways that suit their needs.

At the ministerial meeting, Seiko Noda, Japan's Minister of State for Science and Technology, stated that although science and technology cooperation has already been conducted through bilateral agreements or through specific projects, it is necessary to expand opportunities for bilateral and multilateral policy dialogue, since global issues like climate change cannot be resolved by any single country or through bilateral cooperation and must be tackled jointly by a number of countries to achieve a solution through science and technology.

Minister Noda concluded her speech by referring to Japan's hosting of the first G8 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting in June this year and stating that Japan will reflect the outcome of this meeting as well as the G8 Meeting to international discussions about global issues and actively promote science and technology diplomacy through policy dialogue with developed and developing countries.

**Science and Technology Ministers' Round Table Meeting**  
**October 5, 2008 15:00–18:30**

	Country	Name	Position
1	Albania	Dr. Fatos BEJA	Minister, Ministry of Education and Science
2	Argentina	Dr. Jose Lino BARAÑAO	Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation
3	Bulgaria	Prof. Dr. Daniel Vassilev VALTCHEV	Minister, Ministry of Education and Science
4	Burkina Faso	Dr. Maxime Z. SOMÉ	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Technical education and vocational Training
5	Cameroon	Dr. Madeleine TCHUINTE	Minister, Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI)
6	Egypt	Prof. Hany Mahfouz HELAL	Minister, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
7	Eritrea	H.E. Mr. Semere RUSSOM	Minister, Ministry of Education
8	Hungary	Prof. Karoly MOLNAR	Minister, Ministry without Portfolio for Science and Technology Policy
9	India	Mr. Kapil SIBAL	Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Earth Sciences
10	Israel	Prof. David MENDLOVIC	Chief Scientist, Ministry of Science and Technology
11	Japan	Ms. Seiko NODA	Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy
12	Kenya	Hon. Sally Jepngetich KOSGEI	Minister, Ministry of Higher Education and Science and Technology
13	Lesotho	Hon. Mothejoa METSING	Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
14	Malawi	Mr. Efrem Zeph Nath CHILIMA	Counsellor of the Republic of Malawi to Japan
15	Malaysia	H.E. Y.B. Tuan Haji Fadillah Yusof	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
16	Mali	H.E. Ms. Diarra Mariam Flantie DIALLO	Minister, Ministry of Communication and New Technologies
17	Morocco	H.E. Mr. Ahmed CHAMI	Minister, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies
18	Mozambique	H.E. Prof. Eng. Venacio MASSINGUE	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
19	Pakistan	Dr. Atta-ur-RAHMAN	Federal Minister, Higher Education Commission
20	Philippines	Dr. Estrella Fagela ALABASTRO	Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
21	Rwanda	H. E. Dr. Emile RWAMASIRABO	Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda
22	Serbia	Prof. Dr. Snežana PAJOVIĆ	State Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technological Development
23	Singapore	Mr. Chuan Poh Lim	Chairman, A*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology and Research)
24	Spain	Ms. Cristina GARMENDIA MENDIZÁBAL	Minister, Ministry of Science and Innovation
25	Sudan	H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed OMER	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
26	Switzerland	Mr. Mauro DELL'AMBROGIO	State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER)
27	Tanzania	Hon. Prof. Peter Mahamudu MSOLLA	Minister, Ministry of Communication and Science and Technology
28	Thailand	Mr. Wutipong CHAISANG	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
29	Tunisia	Mr. Lazhar BOUOUNI	Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technology
30	U.S.A.	Dr. Nina FEDOROFF	Special Adviser, US Department of State
31	Viet Nam	Dr. Le Dinh TIEN	Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
<b>&lt;Guest Speaker&gt;</b>			
1	Mexico	Dr. Malio MOLINA	Professor, University of California, San Diego
2	Kenya	Dr. Calestous Juma	Professor, University of Harvard