

Summary of the 6th Science and Technology Ministers' Round Table Meeting

October 4, 2009
Cabinet Office
Government of Japan

The 6th Science and Technology Minister's Roundtable Meeting was held at the Kyoto International Conference Center on October 4, with the participation of representatives from 22 countries around the world. (The list of participants is in Attachment 1.) The participants exchanged views on the theme of "The Role of Science and Technology under the Current Economic Situations"

Two guest speakers delivered key-note speeches after the opening remarks by the chair, Mr. Keisuke Tsumura, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Science and Technology Policy. Then, the participants exchanged views. Lastly, the chair, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Tsumura summarized the discussion of this meeting.

1. Discussion of the meeting

(1) **Theme:** "The Role of Science and Technology under the Current Economic Situations"

(2) **Points for discussion:**

- To overcome the current economic situation, investment in science and technology is essential for sustainable medium- or long-term economic development, not only looking to the short-term economic recovery.
- In this investment, the following three points would be important:
 - 1) The development of innovative technologies such as low carbon technologies
 - 2) The building of social conditions to deploy innovative technologies smoothly (such as construction of the social infrastructure and improvement of the regulation system)
 - 3) The training of human resources to utilize and deploy these innovative technologies
- From this standpoint, the participants were expected to discuss what we should do to realize these three points through international cooperation.

2. Keynote speeches by Special Guests

1) Dr. Philip Campbell, the Editor-in-Chief of Nature, UK

"Science and technologies for sustainable development: information and

communication”

- The topic of presentation was innovative technologies, social reform and capacity development necessary for realizing sustainable developments.
- Energy saving technology, measures against malaria, LED (light emitting diode) illumination and electronic book (e-ink) as examples of innovative technologies
- The role of information and communication and the importance of ICT for realizing sustainable developments
- The importance of change of public behavior based on openness and the role which “information” will play for realizing social reform. The change of way of research and development associated with change of public behavior
- The importance as human resources of women and experts who handle health surveillance

2) Professor Kiyoshi Kurokawa, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan

”Science, Technology and Innovation; Multi-layered Brain Circulation”

- In just 100 years, industries and technologies has progressed by the increase of population and the developments of internet. On the other hand, these progresses brought various problems.
- The investment in science and technology is essential to solve global issues which we now face, such as climate change, food security and water issues. In addition, the involvement of various stakeholders and bottom-up approach is important.
- The investment in science and technology is the investment in human resource who returns the result of science and technology to the society. In “brain-circulation”, it is very important for young people to gain experience overseas and build network.

3. Summary of Roundtable discussion

The participants held active discussions based on key-note speeches by guest-speakers. Lastly, the chair, Mr. Tsumura summarized the discussion of this meeting as below:

- To overcome the current economic crisis, science, technology and innovation is essential. There are various actors who take part in science and technology activities, such as industry, academia, government and NGO. Thus cooperation among them is extremely

important.

- Science, technology and innovation plays the role of building the base for sustainable developments under the current economic situations. “Green Innovation” would be a key-word to solve the issues of low carbon society, environmental protection, food security and health issues.
- In addition, we can not solve the problems for sustainable development only by science and technology. The reform of social systems, behavioral change in organizations and the public, and sharing and disclosing of information are indispensable.
- Furthermore, the training of people who take the role of problem solving is important. The building up of human networks through “brain-circulation” is also desirable.
- International collaboration at various levels is essential for us to solve diverse problems which the world faces now. For further achievement, information sharing about the activities that are already performed and coordination among them are important.
- Japan will actively promote bilateral and multi-lateral science and technology collaboration in the areas such as low carbon technologies.

Science and Technology Ministers' Round Table Meeting

October 4, 2009 15:40-18:10

	Country	Name	Position
1	Angola	Prof. Dr. Maria Cândida Pereira Teixeira	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
2	Argentina	Dr. Lino Barañao	Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation
3	Brazil	Dr. Sergio Machado Rezende	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
4	Cote d'Ivoire	Mr. Hibault Ogou Alexis	Principal Private Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research and Higher Education
5	Ethiopia	Mr. Juneidi Saddo	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
6	Germany	Prof. Dr. Frieder Meyer-Krahmer	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research
7	India	Dr. Thirumalachari Ramasami	Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
8	Japan	Mr. Keisuke Tsumura	Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Science and Technology, Cabinet Office
9	Kenya	Dr. Sally Jepngetich Kosgei	Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
10	Latvia	Dr. Tatjana Koke	Minister, Ministry of Education and Science
11	Malawi	Mr. Otria Moyo Jere	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
12	Oman	Dr. Rawyah bint Saud Al Busaidiyah	Minister, Ministry of Higher Education
13	Pakistan	Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	Federal Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
14	Russia	Mr. Alexander Khlunov	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Science
15	Rwanda	Dr. Charles Murigande	Minister, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Research
16	Singapore	Mr. Lim Chuan Poh	Chairman, Agency for Science, Technology and Research
17	Sudan	Dr. Eisa Bushra Mohamed Hamid	State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
18	Switzerland	Dr. Mauro Dell'Ambrogio	State Secretary, State Secretariat for Education and Research
19	Thailand	Dr. Khunying Kalaya Soponpanich	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
20	U.K.	Prof. John Beddington	Government Chief Scientific Adviser
21	Vietnam	Dr. Le Dinh Tien	Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
22	Zimbabwe	Prof. Heneri Dzinotiwei	Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology
<Guest Speaker>			
1	U.K.	Dr. Philip Campbell	Editor-in-Chief of Nature
2	Japan	Prof. Kiyoshi Kurokawa	Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies