

I Activities of the Expert Panels, Project Teams and Working Groups

The CSTP has established an expert panel — of which there are five as of July 2007 — to quickly seek expert opinion on important matters. In order to make timely and appropriate responses to tumultuous social issues,

Project Teams (PT) and Working Groups (WG) have been set up under the Expert Panels, and discussions are held with the input of many external experts.

*These are just a few examples of some of the main PTs and WGs.

Expert Panel on Basic Policy Promotion

(April 2006 onward)

This panel conducts research and examinations concerning matters on basic policy in S&T to steadily promote the policy in line with the 3rd S&T Basic Plan.

Promotion Strategy PT

(June 2006 onward)

This team was established to promote R&D in each field in line with The Promotion Strategy, and to offer follow-up guidance.

System Reform WG

(June 2006 onward)

This group was established to show concrete policies for the reform of systematic obstacles to the advancement of S&T and the transfer of its benefits to society.

Research Funds WG

(December 2006 onward)

This group was established to analyze the state of public research finance, such as competitive funds, and to deliver concrete policies on system reform in the future.

S&T Diplomatic Promotion WG

(June 2007 onward)

This group was established to incorporate research and technology cooperation with diplomacy and make substantial progress in S&T diplomacy.

Expert Panel on Evaluation

(January 2001 onward)

This panel prepares rules about R&D evaluation and carries out research and evaluation of major R&D to achieve a competitive research environment and effective and efficient allocation of resources.

Expert Panel on Bioethics

(January 2001 onward)

This panel conducts research and examinations into guidelines regarding the use of human embryonic stem cells as well as the treatment of human and other embryos to respond to the rapid development of the life sciences.

Expert Panel on Space Development and Utilization

(October 2001 onward)

This panel conducts research and examinations into future policy and programs of space exploitation to strengthen the competitiveness of the space industry and encourage the use of space.

Expert Panel on Management of Intellectual Properties

(January 2002 onward)

This panel investigates and carries out studies relating to comprehensive strategies for the protection and utilization of intellectual property to create and secure results that match the expanded investment in research and development in Japan as a whole, and to link those results to a strengthened international competitiveness.

S&T governance measures based on an “on-the-spot philosophy”

On September 7, 2007, Fumio Kishida, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, visited the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), which are both located in Ibaraki Prefecture's Tsukuba City. He watched a demonstration of a flight model of the planned international space station plant called the “Japanese Experiment Module, Kibo” and a humanoid robot. The minister also inspected the sites where the R&D is being carried out, and had an exchange of opinions with the people involved. A discussion session was also held with young researchers from the Tsukuba area, under the theme of “What young researchers expect to S&T governance.” The session, they exchange opinions about career paths of young researchers, including female researchers, and post-doctoral situation, aiming to encourage all their activities.

