



# Establishing National Strategy on S&T

## About the S&T Basic Plan

Under the S&T Basic Law, enacted in 1995, the government was mandated to execute systematic and integrated S&T policies with a long-term perspective. The 1st S&T Basic Plan (FY1996-FY2000) and the 2nd

S&T Basic Plan (FY2001-FY2005) were formulated according to this law. The 3rd S&T Basic Plan started its five-year course in April 2006. The CSTP is responsible for the formulation and execution of the basic plans.

## Main Points of the 3rd S&T Basic Plan

### 1. Basic Ideas

- Establishment of two basic stances and six policy goals

### 2. Strategic Priority Setting in S&T

- Promotion of basic research (research will be steadily promoted by securing a certain amount of funding, while preserving diversity and continuity)
- Priority setting in R&D for policy-oriented subjects (R&D deserving prioritized investment is stipulated in line with the sectoral promotion strategy, decided by the CSTP in March 2006, with a strong awareness of achieving policy goals)

### 3. Reforming the S&T System

- Developing, securing and activating human resources
- Creating scientific development and persistent innovation (good seeds of R&D will be nurtured, and

efforts will be reinforced to realize the R&D result as social and economic value)

- Reinforcing the foundation for promoting S&T
- Strategic promotion of international activities

### 4. S&T to Be Supported by Society and the Public

- Responsible measures to resolve ethical, legal, or social problems caused by S&T
- Improving accountability relating to S&T and information dissemination
- Improving public awareness of S&T
- Promoting proactive participation of the public in S&T

### 5. Role of the CSTP

- Enhancing the headquarters functions of the CSTP (use it fully as a locus of knowledge, and try to make it a publicly visible entity)

## Ideas of the 3rd S&T Basic Plan

The 3rd S&T Basic Plan takes the following two stances.  
(1) S&T to be supported by public and to benefit society  
(2) Emphasis on fostering human resources and competitive research environments; shift of emphasis from "hard" to "soft" such as human resources; greater significance of individuals at institutions.

In addition, six goals have been set, which describe what S&T should strive for. The CSTP is encouraging government agencies and research institutions to conduct R&D and achieve results, in order to meet the targets based on these concepts.

### Goal 1:

#### Quantum jump in knowledge, discovery, and creation

- accumulation and creation of diverse knowledge to ensure a bright future

### Goal 3:

#### Economic growth & environmental protection

- achieving sustainable economic growth based on environmental protection

### Goal 5:

#### The nation's good health over lifetime

- making Japan a country where people ranging from children to the elderly can stay healthy

### Goal 2:

#### Breakthroughs in advanced S&T

- efforts for human dreams to be come true

### Goal 4:

#### Innovator Japan

- realizing a strong economy and industries creating innovations constantly

### Goal 6:

#### The world's safest country

- making Japan the world's safest country

## Total Scale of Investments

The 3rd S&T Basic Plan firmly supports the idea that S&T is "an investment in the future" and has specified that the budget for governmental R&D investments over the five years from FY2006 to FY2010 will total 25 trillion yen. The government must fulfill the expectations of the

public regarding the sum of 25 trillion yen, a substantial amount in times of severe fiscal conditions.

NB: This estimate is based on the assumption that governmental R&D investment should be 1 percent of GDP, of which the nominal growth rate is 3.1 percent during the period of the 3rd Basic Plan.