



Introduction

The Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) is established within the Cabinet Office in January 2001, the command center for Japan's integrated efforts to advance science and technology (S&T) in a comprehensive and well-planned manner.

The promotion of S&T is an investment in the future. In order to open up future avenues for Japan — a nation with scant natural resources — in the face of the falling birthrate and aging population, we need to continuously create innovative technologies, products and services, and realize the goals for a vibrant economy and a prosperous society. There is also a very real need for strategic efforts using S&T to solve global-scale threats to the sustainable development of mankind, such as environmental, energy, water and infectious disease issues.

The Cabinet approved a long-term strategic policy called "Innovation 25," on June 1, 2007. Innovation 25 indicates how, with a view to the year 2025, we should act to achieve a prosperous and hopeful future for Japan, and sets down both short and long-term policies, that should be pursued for the sake of Japan's bright future in the areas of R&D promotion, reform of social systems, and the fostering of human resources. To really generate the ceaseless innovation outlined in this policy, it is vital that we create the knowledge that will serve as the wellspring of Japan's vibrancy. The importance of strengthening our S&T will, in other words, become greater than ever.

The CSTP will continue to further strengthen its capabilities as the command center for S&T policy. In order to make Japan an innovation- and S&T- oriented nation that is the envy of the world, we will further promote the 3rd S&T Basic Plan approved by the Cabinet in March 2006, and lead the way in creating innovation.

We hoped that this pamphlet will help you to understand the role of the CSTP.

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