

# The 10<sup>th</sup> Science and Technology Ministers' Roundtable Meeting

October 17, 2013

Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

1. Date and time: October 6, 2013 (Sun.), 16:30–18:45
2. Venue: Annex 1, Kyoto International Conference Center
3. Participants: Ministers responsible for Science and Technology Policy, science advisers to the head of states and other representatives from 27 countries
4. Theme: “Enhancing Knowledge Sharing through People in the Globalizing World”  
Discussion Points
  - I. How do we see or evaluate the alleged geographical disparity of flows of human resources?
  - II. Should we explore ways to further enhance mobility of human resources, especially flow from developed countries to developing countries?
  - III. What are the challenges to address to enhance such mobility and what are new initiatives for that purpose?
5. Meeting Overview:
  - i) Mr. Ichita Yamamoto, Japan's Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, chaired the meeting. In his opening remarks, Minister Yamamoto mentioned:
    - The entire Government of Japan will make concerted efforts and surely settle the issue of contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station as pledged by Prime Minister Abe.
    - In Japan since the inauguration of the current Abe Administration, the three arrows of Abenomics have been shot toward the restoration of Japan's economy, and as Minister for Science and Technology Policy, he is promoting science, technology and innovation policy which is the driving force of the economic development.

Next, Minister Yamamoto expressed his expectation that the meeting will be an opportunity to share efforts of participating countries to enhance the mobility of human resources in science and technology, and that there will be

meaningful exchange of information and views in line with the theme and discussion points described above.

ii) Then, Mr. Takao Kuramochi, Director General for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office of Japan introduced the international trend of mobility of human resources, Japan's initiatives taken upon basic policies toward globalization (such as the Fourth Science and Technology Basic Plan and Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation) and their results as well as future directions to be taken in view of their past experiences.

iii) Successively, the following three countries gave presentations on their own initiatives.

- H.E. Ms. Geneviève Fioraso, Minister for Higher Education and Research of France mentioned that they are conducting education and research in a language other than French to receive a lot of foreign researchers and that they are establishing training schools in African countries to enable African researchers to jointly publish scientific articles.
- Dr. Enrique Cabrero Mendoza, Director General of National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Mexico explained their initiatives for encouraging Mexican students to study abroad by the Council's scholarship and current situation of cooperation with other countries. He stressed the importance of establishing policies not only for competition for promoting the mobility of human resources, but only for cooperation and collaboration.
- Mr. Chuan Poh Lim, Chairman of Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR) of Singapore introduced their concrete initiatives to create an environment for attracting internationally recognized researchers and to encourage students to study abroad and build networks by scholarships.

iv) Participants then presented their own initiatives:

- There was no objection to the need to further enhance international mobility of human resources while making bilateral exchange most interactive.
- Concrete initiatives to further enhance mobility of human resources were reported from participating countries, in addition to reinforcing

current measures to dispatch and invite researchers, measures to create hubs as centers of science, technology and innovation, policies to improve the living environment of foreign researchers and issuance of visas specifically for researchers to promote the acceptance of foreign researchers.

- In addition, several countries expressed their expectation to strengthen their partnerships with Japan to address issues of human resource development while enhancing the mobility of human resources in science, technology and innovation.

v) In closing, Minister Yamamoto expressed his cordial thanks to the participants and his hope that various cooperation and collaboration will be promoted between participating countries.

#### 6. Miscellaneous:

##### i) Bilateral meetings:

Minister Yamamoto also had bilateral talks with the following participants of the Roundtable Meeting.

- H.E. Mr. Louis Augusto Pelembe, Minister of Science and Technology, Mozambique
- Sir Mark Walport, the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, UK
- H.E. Dr. Ko Ko Oo, Minister for Science and Technology, Myanmar
- Prof. Dr. Fidel Castro Díaz-Balart, Scientific Advisor of the President, Cuba
- Ms. Carmen Vela Olmo, State Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation, Spain
- H.E. Mr. Derek Andre Hanekom, Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa
- H.E. Ms. Geneviève Fioraso, Minister for Higher Education and Research, France
- H.E. Prof. Ramzy George Stino, Minister of Scientific Research, Deputy Prime Minister, Egypt
- H.E. Mr. Lahcen Daoudi, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Morocco
- H.E. Mr. Mihnea Cosmin Costoiu, Minister Delegate for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Development, Romania
- H.E. Dr. Mauro Dell' Ambrogio, State Secretary for Education and

Research, Switzerland

- H.E. Mr. Ts'eliso Seth Levalo Mokhosi, Minister of Communications, Science and Technology, Lesotho

ii) Lunch reception:

Prior to the Roundtable Meeting, Minister Yamamoto hosted a lunch reception, as a place for networking, and introduced "Cool Japan."