

The 12th Science and Technology Ministers' Roundtable

1. Date and time: October 4, 2015 (Sun.), 16:40-18:50
2. Venue: Room A, Kyoto International Conference Center, (Takaragaike, Sakyō-ku, Kyoto)
3. Participants: Ministers responsible for Science and Technology Policy, science advisers to the head of states and other representatives from 26 countries (including Japan - see list attached)
4. Theme: Strategies for Inclusive Innovation-The Role of International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation-

Discussion Points

1. Examine success stories in each nation of scientific technology and innovation that promote inclusive innovation; status of national policies supporting inclusive innovation.
2. How should nations engage in international cooperation and harmony to promote inclusive innovation through science and technology?

5. Roundtable Overview:

i) The Roundtable was chaired by Mr. Shunichi Yamaguchi, Japan's Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy. Minister Yamaguchi's opening remarks covered the following points:

- Japan is currently drafting its 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan covering 2016 through 2020. This plan serves as the basis for advancing Japan's science and technology policies.
- Concurrent with the launch of the 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan, the Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2015 was drafted in June of this year. This strategy defines the policy areas that should receive budget priority in FY 2016.

With respect to inclusive innovation strategy and resolving the global issues of pollution and resource depletion, Minister Yamaguchi stressed the need for innovation development that subsumes society-wide issues and encompasses sustainable economic activities. He also called for the exchange of information and opinions in conjunction with the role of science and technology innovation and the importance of international cooperation in addressing the needs of each country.

ii) Next, Mr. Koichi Morimoto, Japan's Director General for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, presented case studies illustrating how science and technology is being utilized in society. He explained the philosophy inherent in inclusive innovation, and discussed the progress of Japan's policies for scientific and technological innovation, including the drafting of the 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan and the Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2015. Finally, Mr. Morimoto affirmed Japan's aim of leveraging these policies to move scientific and technological innovation forward at a global level.

iii) Following Director General Morimoto, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director John Holdren delivered the keynote address, introducing initiatives towards inclusive innovation in the U.S.

Dr. Holdren stressed the importance of engaging members of a community as innovators for successful inclusive innovation, and he explained how this is being facilitated in the U.S. through the General Services Administration's Challenge.gov online portal and citizen science¹. These initiatives are providing individuals with opportunities to be directly involved in science and innovation. Mr. Holdren also drew attention to the increasing momentum of the new maker movement, based on open innovation, as low-cost sensors and personal devices like smartphones that provide access to social media have become ubiquitous. Dr. Holdren proposed that the development of the information network and the rising tide of global information sharing will serve as the impetus for resolving issues around the world.

¹Citizen science: Originally a term referring to theorizing by keen amateur astronomers. With recent advances in information technology, specialists are now joined by the general public in initiatives to support collaborative research and information sharing between the two, using digital tools and online networks.

iv) An open discussion session followed, covering the following points:

(1) Participants came to a shared consensus on the necessity and importance of promoting inclusive innovation. It was noted that initiatives to tackle societal challenges are already underway through the expansion of community-based projects.

(2) Some participants pointed out that all nations struggle with expanding economic inequality, and that approaches that incorporate inclusive innovation will be effective in resolving this issue. However, education will be important in promoting inclusive innovation.

(3) On the topic of advancing inclusive innovation, it was suggested that smartphones and other social media-enabled devices could be a driving factor in sharing knowledge and information at a grass roots level, helping to advance innovation around the world.

(4) While delegates from each country introduced case studies and policies for promoting inclusive innovation, the current state of societal challenges like education, water resources, natural disasters and medical care varied country to country. All participants recognized the need to cooperate and work together in a variety of ways through bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

v) In closing, Minister Yamaguchi formally expressed his gratitude to participants from each country. He stated that he believed this Roundtable served to deepen an awareness of the role of science and technology innovation in inclusive innovation and in the importance of international cooperation. He also expressed his hope that the nations represented by the participants in the Roundtable can work more closely together in the future to resolve global-scale issues that cannot be addressed by any single nation alone.

6. Bilateral Talks

Minister Yamaguchi held bilateral talks with the following ministers and representatives:

- Prof. Dr. Todor Tanev, Minister of Education and Science (Bulgaria)
- Prof. Dr. Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, Scientific Advisor of the Council of State (Cuba)
- Mr. Thierry Mandon, Minister of State for Higher Education and Research, attached to the Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Research (France)
- Mr. Tudor Prisecaru, President, National Agency for Scientific Research (Romania)

Attachment

List of Attendees for the 12th Science and Technology Ministers' Roundtable

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	Country	Name	Position
1	Bulgaria	Prof. Dr. Todor Tanev	Minister of Education and Science
2	Burkina Faso	Dr. Jean-Noël Poda	Minister for Research and Innovation
3	Cambodia	Dr. Hang Chuon Naron	Minister of Education, Youth and Sport
4	Cuba	Prof. Dr. Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart	Scientific Advisor of the Council of State
5	Dominican Republic	Dr. Plácido Gómez Ramírez	Vice Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology
6	Finland	Mr. Pekka Soini	Director General, Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation
7	France	Mr. Thierry Mandon	Minister of State for Higher Education and Research, attached to the Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Research
8	Germany	Dr. Georg Schütte	State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research
9	Hungary	Mr. József Pálincás	President, National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary
10	Iran	Prof. Dr. Mohammad Farhadi	Minister of Science, Research and Technology
11	Japan	Mr. Shunichi Yamaguchi	Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy
12	Kuwait	H.E. Dr. Bader Hamad Al-Essa	Minister of Education and Higher Education
13	Lesotho	Mr. Khotso Letsatsi	Minister of Communications, Science & Technology
14	Malaysia	Mr. Datuk Madius Tangau	Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation
15	Mexico	Mr. Luis Torreblanca	Deputy Director of Technological Development and Innovation, National Council of Science and Technology

16	Romania	Mr. Tudor Prisecaru	President, National Agency for Scientific Research
17	Singapore	Mr. Lim Chuan Poh	Chairman, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)
18	South Africa	Ms. Grace Naledi Pandor	Minister of Science and Technology
19	Sweden	Ms. Helene Hellmark Knutsson	Minister for Higher Education and Research
20	Thailand	Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj	Minister of Science and Technology
21	Tunisia	Mr. Chiheb Bouden	Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
22	Turkey	Prof. Dr. Ahmet Arif Ergin	Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey
23	Turkmenistan	Mr. Elyasov Mammetberdi	Director, S&T Division, Cabinet of Ministers
24	United Kingdom	Prof. Sir Mark Walport	Government Chief Scientific Adviser
25	United States	Dr. John Holdren	Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
26	Vietnam	Dr. Tran Viet Thanh	Deputy Minister of Science and Technology