

The 15th Science and Technology Ministers' Roundtable

1. Date and time: October 7th (Sun), 2018 12:00-14:50
2. Venue: Annex Hall, Kyoto International Conference Center
(Takaragaike, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto)
3. Participants: Ministers responsible for Science and Technology (S&T) Policy,
science advisers to the head of states and other representatives from
22 countries including Japan. (List attached)
4. Theme: "The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs) – Lights and Shadows of STI for SDGs -"

5. Roundtable Summaries

- i) Mr. Hirai, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy chaired the Roundtable Meeting. At the opening, he sincerely appreciated the attendance of each country and made the following remarks.
 - Japan will host the G20 Summit and the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) next year in 2019, where we expect to have vibrant discussions on "STI for SDGs".
 - The theme "STI for SDGs" for the Roundtable was selected in order to further promote the relevant policies and initiatives based on the exchange of experiences among the participating countries, prior to the above-mentioned international conferences.
- ii) Mr. Akaishi, Director General for Science, Technology and Innovation explained about Japan's policies and programs of "STI for SDGs" and the discussion points for the Roundtable as follows.
 - (1) What is your vision for promoting STI for SDGs?
 - (2) What is important to promote STI for SDGs effectively and efficiently?
(e.g., investment, human resources, government support, international cooperation, and etc.)
 - (3) What kind of efforts for STI for SDGs do you focus on?
 - (4) What are the lights and shadows of STI for SDGs? What are the preventive-measures and counter-measures against the shadows?
- iii) Under Minister Hirai's chairmanship, there was an exchange of views and experiences by the participating countries concerning the shared discussion points. Some of the points are as follows.
 - (1) As the financial, natural and human resources are limited, it is essential to engage in international cooperation and networking activities for addressing global social challenges. When the innovators create a new market to maximize the economic

interests, they should also act with the social responsibilities for the citizens and society as a principle.

Any technical developments might bring the shadows to the society, as seen in the current megatrends of AI application. It is important to review the possible implications of the technology especially on the application of the cutting-edge one.

- (2) As we need very much to cultivate the natural and human resources, we have to promote a rapid economic development initiated by the investment plan by the government in order to achieve the SDGs. Though education is important to achieve the SDGs, the current educational systems do not place high priorities on human resource development for STI, so we should make necessary reforms against the traditional educational systems.

If we could nurture the youths' talents to be enrolled in the universities, it could help boost the economic growth. However, as there is a huge gap between the developed and developing countries on the STI capabilities, most developing countries would seek aid and cooperation. It is important for these countries to collaborate with the leading countries of STI.

- (3) When we address the challenges of the SDGs, it is important to balance among economy, society, well-being, health, nature and humanity. We believe Green Economy is the engine to our economic growth in this context.

We make use of STI on our efforts in promoting STI for SDGs in the following four areas: poverty eradication, human resource development of the future generation, increasing competitiveness of start-ups and SMEs, and fostering regional vitalization to narrow the gaps of the development level between the societies and the regions. If we work and cooperate together, we could bring the lights of STI and save the world with thorough control of the technology.

- (4) The SDGs is an inclusive agenda to increase the quality of life, as well as an important concept to contribute to prosperity and sustainable future development. We incorporated the SDGs into our national development policies, especially prioritizing the educational initiatives. In addition, we work on sustainable management of forest and marine resources including salt, food and nutrition security in agricultural sector, information system for geosciences, empowerment of women, climate change, and technology transfer, and so on. The effective countermeasures against the shadows of STI would be the investments for higher education, especially for researchers and technicians engaged in scientific research. A variety of measures are needed, and thus cooperation at wider levels of society is necessary.

- (5) STI could solve various challenges of the society. In 2017, the concept note on its national strategy based on the SDGs was endorsed by the government. Following that, we developed a concrete national strategy which includes the 106 targets with the aims of achieving them by 2030. Those targets include increasing income, quality of life and education through sustainable management of resources, health, governance, and providing better and healthier living conditions. We aim to achieve these goals by making use of STI with human-centered policies. For achieving the SDGs, we promote

cooperation among universities, research institutes and enterprises, and aim for solving social issues with sharing common goals to achieve.

iv) Ms. Kajiwara, an Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation described her observation of the discussion points as below for a wrap up of the Roundtable.

- (1) Importance of promoting human resource development, education, and international cooperation; and balancing with economic development.
- (2) Importance of establishing funds and infrastructures for STI, cooperating among industry, government and academia, and strengthening R & D programs.
- (3) Necessity to work on open science, database, and cybersecurity issues.

v) Lastly, Minister Hirai made closing remarks with appreciation for the participants' contribution to the successful Roundtable.