

The 16th Science and Technology Ministers' Roundtable

1. Date and time: October 6th (Sun), 2019 12:00-14:40
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
19 countries including Japan. (List attached)
4. Theme: "International Cooperation and R&D for the Implementation of STI for
SDGs"

5. Roundtable Summaries

- i) Mr. TAKEMOTO, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, chaired the Roundtable Meeting. At the opening, he sincerely appreciated the attendance and introduced the theme of the meeting, referring to Society 5.0 and the Moonshot R&D program.
- ii) Mr. MATSUO, Director General for Science, Technology and Innovation, gave a presentation about Japan's policies and programs of "STI for SDGs" and the discussion points for the Roundtable as follows.
 - What are the challenges countries face in the promotion of STI for SDGs? (or What challenges do you face for the promotion of STI for SDGs in your country?)
 - What kinds of international cooperation are reliable/ideal/effective to implement concrete actions of STI for SDGs?
 - What is required for involving multi-stakeholders to promote STI for SDGs?
 - What are the ambitious R&D schemes (if any) carried out in your country for achieving SDGs and resolving difficult societal challenges? What are the expected outcomes?
- iii) Under Minister TAKEMOTO'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) With the increasing demand for telecommunications, abuse of telecommunications technologies has become a threat. There is a shortage of human resource for cyber security in the public sector, and human resource development is imperative. The national vision aims to become an R&D innovation hub, providing programs for students to develop competencies, and conducting exhibitions with national research funds.
 - (2) It is important to set global research areas and human-centered goals rather than technical perspectives. How to deal with AI and other new disruptive technologies is also important. An AI center was established in UNESCO, and there has been discussion about policy and ethics rather than technology. STI is a pre-stage for solving problems concerning population, immigration, environment, and so on.
 - (3) Academia and corporate participation are necessary to achieve the SDGs, though their priorities tend to compete. The country aims to address five actions: research and development considering the balance of targeted and untargeted, cross-sectoral projects, translation of discovery, multi-stakeholder dialog including citizens, and diversity and inclusiveness.
 - (4) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation are required to promote STI for SDGs in the following respects: improving an international joint research platform for sharing technology as well as experience and know-how, increasing joint ventures or linkages between businesses across countries to utilize technologies in more effective ways, and improving and promoting machine learning to lift the barrier for universal education and training.
- iv) Dr. KOTANI, an Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, wrapped up the discussion and shared the importance of international cooperation, involvement of various stakeholders, and education in promoting STI for SDGs.
- v) Lastly, Minister TAKEMOTO made closing remarks with appreciation for the participants' contribution to the successful Roundtable.