

The 17th Science and technology Ministers' Roundtable

1. Date and time: October 3rd (Sat), 2020, 20:00-21:30
2. Format: Online
3. Participants: Ministers responsible for Science and Technology (S&T) policy, science advisers to the head of states, and other representatives from 37 countries including Japan. (List attached.)
4. Theme:
Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to address huge threats to humanity
– The role of international R&D collaboration, social sciences & humanities, and open science (open access and open data) –

5. Roundtable Summaries

(1) HE Inoue, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Japan, chaired the Roundtable. As opening remarks, he expressed his sincere condolences to the victims of COVID-19.

He also explained that the Roundtable would discuss the way STI should stand to address threats such as infectious diseases and large scale natural disasters, referring to the declaration at the G7 Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting in May to make government-sponsored research papers and data on COVID-19 accessible to the public.

(2) Five participants made a lead speech for discussion: HE Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, the European Union; HE Karen Andrews, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Australia; HE Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, South Africa; HE Fortunato T. de la Peña, Secretary of Science and Technology, the Philippines; and Mr. Yanagi Takashi, Director General for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office, Japan. Mr. Yanagi introduced Japan's measures as follows:

- Adoption of the G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Declaration on COVID-19, which includes openness of research papers and data related to the studies of COVID-19 (May) (Promotion of open science)
- International release of computing resources of Japan's supercomputer "Fugaku" free of charge for use (Promotion of international joint research)
- Revision of the basic law to promote science, technology, and innovation (Promotion of an all-out quest for knowledge, including knowledge from social sciences and humanities)

(3) With moderated by Dr. Ueyama, Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Japan, participating countries exchanged views on their measures in line with the theme of the Roundtable. Points made by participating countries include the following:

- The pandemic of COVID-19 has made STI (science, technology, and innovation) much more important among policy agendas. Outcomes of STI should be inclusive and sustainable.
- International cooperation is important more than ever. In particular, it is important to promote international joint research and open science to widely make use of the research outcomes such as papers and data.
- Promotion of interdisciplinary approach including social sciences and humanities is inevitable to obtain innovative results.

(4) Dr. UEYAMA wrapped up the discussion and shared the points that under the post covid-19 era, it is necessary to further strengthen international cooperation in the field of STI with an emphasis on inclusiveness; that the importance of social sciences and humanities such as behavioral science should be recognized; and that it is important to share widely scientific knowledge by promoting open science.

(5) Lastly, Minister Inoue made closing remarks.