

Introduction

The promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation (hereinafter called as STI) is an “investment for the future.” To open the way to the future, it is essential for Japan, which is scarce in resources, with its birthrates declining and its population aging, to continue to create innovative science and technology, products and services and to build a society where people can realize a vital economy and feel a sense of affluence. In addition, strategic policies based on science and technology are strongly desired to resolve global issues including the environment, energy, and infectious diseases.

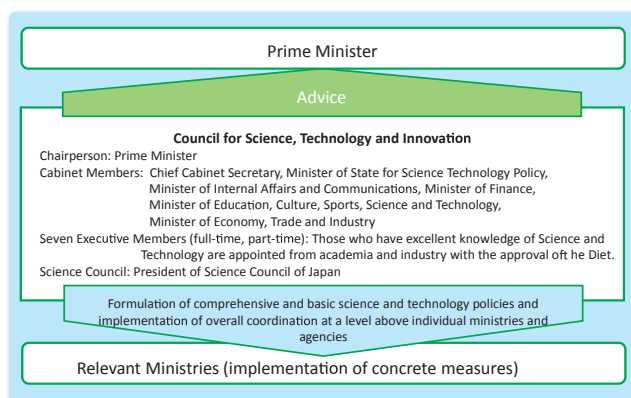
The sustainable development of humankind cannot be realized without resolving these issues.

Japan has achieved high economic growth based on world-leading science and technology and the high educational standards of the public. In recent years, however, Japan has experienced a long period of stagnation caused by low economic growth and prolonged deflation. STI is a driving force for economic revitalization, and strongly promoting STI policies to make Japan “the world’s most innovation-friendly country” is required most now.

About the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation

The Council for Science and Technology Policy was set up in the Cabinet Office as one of the policy councils on key policy fields at the reorganization of government ministries and agencies in January 2001. The above council was reorganized into the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation in May 2014 to strengthen the functions related to the creation of innovation. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation serves as the headquarters for the promotion of STI policy; it overlooks all of the nation’s Science and Technology, formulates comprehensive and basic policies,

and conducts their overall coordination.



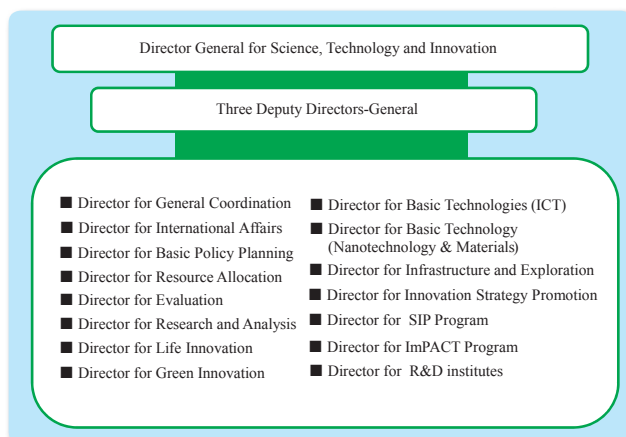
The Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat

The Council for Science, Technology and Innovation secretariat is currently headed by the Director General for STI under the supervision of the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, and consists of three Deputy Directors-General and around 100 staff members.

The secretariat recruits people widely from inside and outside the government structure, and carries out a variety of administrative work, including planning and overall coordination related to STI and organization of meetings.



Exchange of opinions with researchers



Roles of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation

The Council for Science, Technology and Innovation 1) investigates and discusses basic policies concerning science and technology, 2) investigates and discusses science and technology budgets and the allocation of human resources, and 3) assesses Japan's key research and development.

1. Basic Policies on Science and Technology

“The Science and Technology Basic Plan” (every five years), “Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation” (annually).

2. Allocation of the Science and Technology Budget and Human Resources

“Policies for the Allocation of Resources including the Science and Technology Budget” (annually), “Action Plan for the Implementation of Important Science and Technology Policy Measures” (annually)

3. Evaluation of Nationally Important R&D

“General Guidelines for Evaluating Government Funded R&D.” Evaluation and follow-up of Large-scale R&D.

4. Other Key Issues Surrounding the Promotion of Science and Technology

Decision making and coordination regarding such programs as “Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP),” “Impulsing Paradigm Change through Disruptive Technologies Program (ImPACT),” “Funding Program for World-Leading Innovative R&D on Science and Technology (FIRST),” “Funding Program for Next Generation World-Leading Researchers (NEXT Program),” and “New Low Carbon Technology Plan.”



Council for Science, Technology and Innovation plenary meeting

Roles of the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy

Ministers of State for Special Missions are established within the Cabinet Office in order to strongly and swiftly draw up plans and conduct overall coordination regarding key policies of the Cabinet. Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy takes the leadership in the Council

for Science, Technology and Innovation and is responsible for planning and overall coordination of science and technology policies to ensure that they are implemented throughout the nation in an integrated manner.

