Science and Technology Basic Plan

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In accordance with the Science and Technology Basic Law enacted in 1995, the government formulates "Science and Technology Basic Plan" (hereinafter called as S&T Basic Plan) every five years and implements systematic and integrated Science and Technology policies with a long-term perspective.

Science and technology policies have been promoted in line with the following S&T Basic Plans: The 1st S&T Basic Plan (FY1996-FY2000), the 2nd S&T Basic Plan (FY2001-FY2005), the 3rd S&T Basic Plan (FY2006-FY2010), and the 4th S&T Basic Plan (FY2011-FY2015). The Council for Science, Technology and Innovation is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the S&T Basic Plan.

The 4th Science and Technology Basic Plan

Principles

The 4th S&T Basic Plan sets forth five kinds of goals of the country and three basic principles, and specifies issues to be resolved and promotion measures in order to realize these goals and principles.

One of the main features of the 4th S&T Basic Plan is that the government includes widely related innovation policies in addition to the science and technology policies and promotes as STI policies because the efforts being new value creation from the results of science and technology policy through innovation is still on the way.

In promoting the STI policies, the government identifies issues to be addressed in advance, and promotes science and technology polices in an integrated and comprehensive manner to resolve issues. In addition, the government enhances basic research and human resource development as two halves of the same whole.

The Council for Science, Technology and Innovation encourages relevant ministries, and research organizations to conduct R&D and achieves results so that the 4th S&T Basic Plan is firmly promoted.

<Goals of the country>
(1) A country that restores and reconstructs from the disaster and achieves sustainable growth and development of society
(2) A country that realizes a safe, affluent, and high-quality life of the people
(3) A country that takes the initiative in solving global issues including large-scale natural disasters
(4) A country that maintains science and technology as the foundation for the nation's existence
(5) A country that continues to create "knowledge" assets and fosters science and technology as a culture

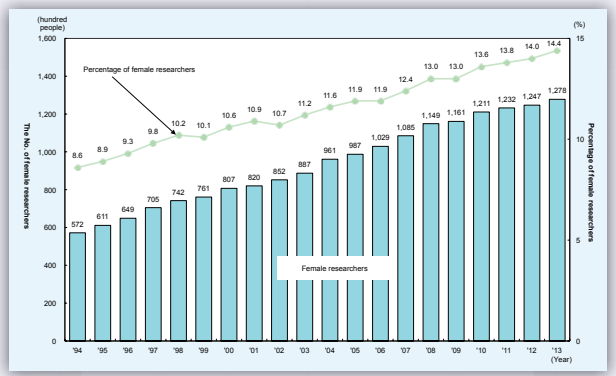
<Basic concepts>
(1) Integrated promotion of the STI policies
(2) Further focus on the roles of human resources and organizations
(3) Realization of the policies to be created and promoted together with society

(Column) Promoting Active Participation of Female Researchers in Japan

The Abe Administration has positioned "Active Participation of Women" as one of the core growth strategies. Prime Minister Abe himself has advertised it on various occasions, attracting unprecedented attention both in Japan and abroad.

Science and technology is one of the areas in which the active participation of women has not been advanced very much, and in which efforts for realizing more participation have been accelerated recently. In the "4th S&T Basic Plan," diverse activities are being carried out with the target share of female researchers recruited in all the fields of natural science set at 30%.

Although the share of female researchers in Japan has doubled in the past 20 years, it is still low compared to other countries. For that reason, the Government is supporting universities and public research organizations that will prepare support systems for helping female researchers balance research with childbirth and childcare. The Government is encouraging universities and public research organizations to establish flexible forms of employment and flexible personnel management and personnel evaluation systems, and provide telecommuting and shorter working hour systems as well as research support systems. In addition, the Government is promoting activities to increase female researchers in leadership positions, female students majoring in natural science, and talented female students aiming to become researchers.



Changes in the Number and Percentage of Female Researchers Source: *White Paper on Science and Technology 2014* (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)

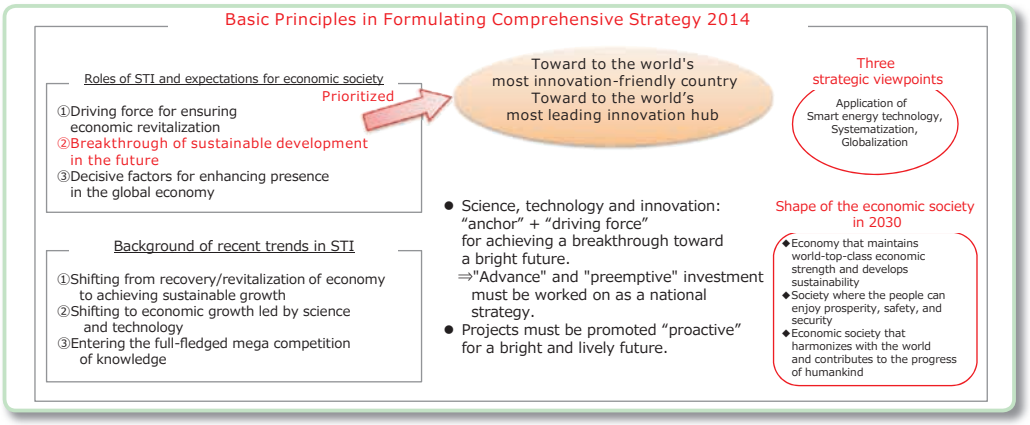
Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2014

What is the Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation?

The Abe administration, which was inaugurated in 2012, positioned STI as one of the pillars of Japan's growth strategy. Building "the world's most innovation-friendly country" was set as a goal, and the "Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation" was decided by the Cabinet on June 7, 2013. This strategy had a long-term vision including an overall picture of STI policies and a short-term program organizing policies to be implemented for realizing such STI policies.

Based on this comprehensive strategy, with the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation serving as the headquarters, the following actions have been taken: Establishing an annual PDCA cycle directly linked to the budget; making efforts to solve important issues; establishing the Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP), which covers areas from basic research up to commercialization; and establishing the Impulsing PAradigm Change through Disruptive Technologies program (ImPACT), which aims to create high-risk and high-impact innovations.

In 2014, the following year, based on the results of these actions and to further accelerate the STI policies, the "Comprehensive Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2014" created by introducing new viewpoints into the previous strategy was developed as a Cabinet decision.

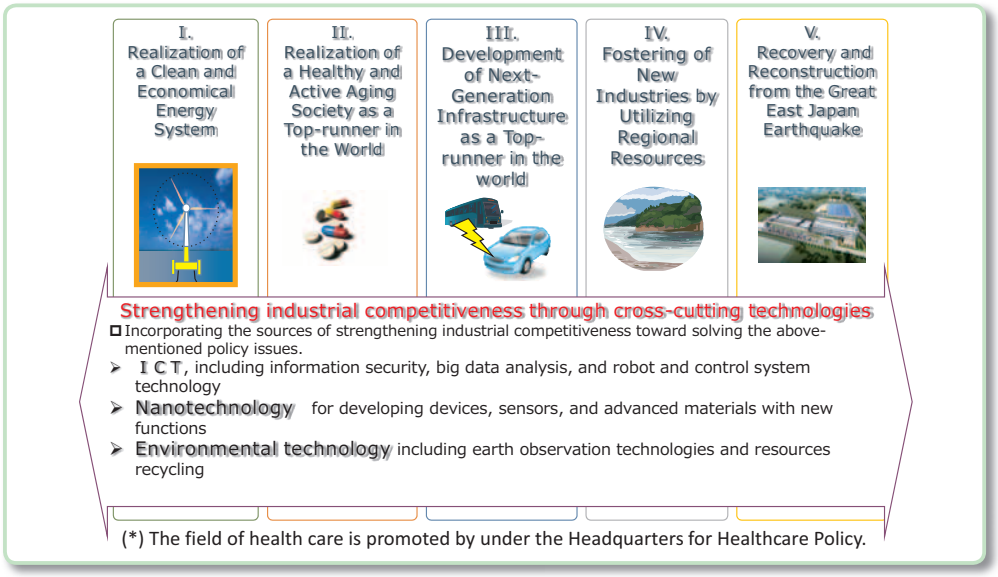


Issues to be addressed by STI

- In-depth exploration of cross-cutting technologies -

There are cross-cutting technologies to be applied to each issue as basic technologies, namely "ICT," "nanotechnology", and "environmental technology." Being areas in which Japan has been strong so far, and being the basic technologies to create innovations unique to Japan for five policy issues, they can be sources that produce great advantages also in the future inn strengthening industrial competitiveness,.

In-depth exploration of technologies themselves will be promoted strongly, instead of only looking at the use of cross-cutting technologies.



- Five policy issues -

There are five policy issues Japan faces with, namely energy, healthy and active aging society, next-generation infrastructure, utilization of regional resources, and recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In all of these issues, various factors involving the Cabinet Office and ministries are intertwined in such a way that solutions to them become complex. For that reason, it is necessary to comprehensively study the way to reform all the technology and knowledge, and socio-economic systems, and consider these issues as a whole, as an integrated issue.

- Capitalizing on the opportunities created by Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games -

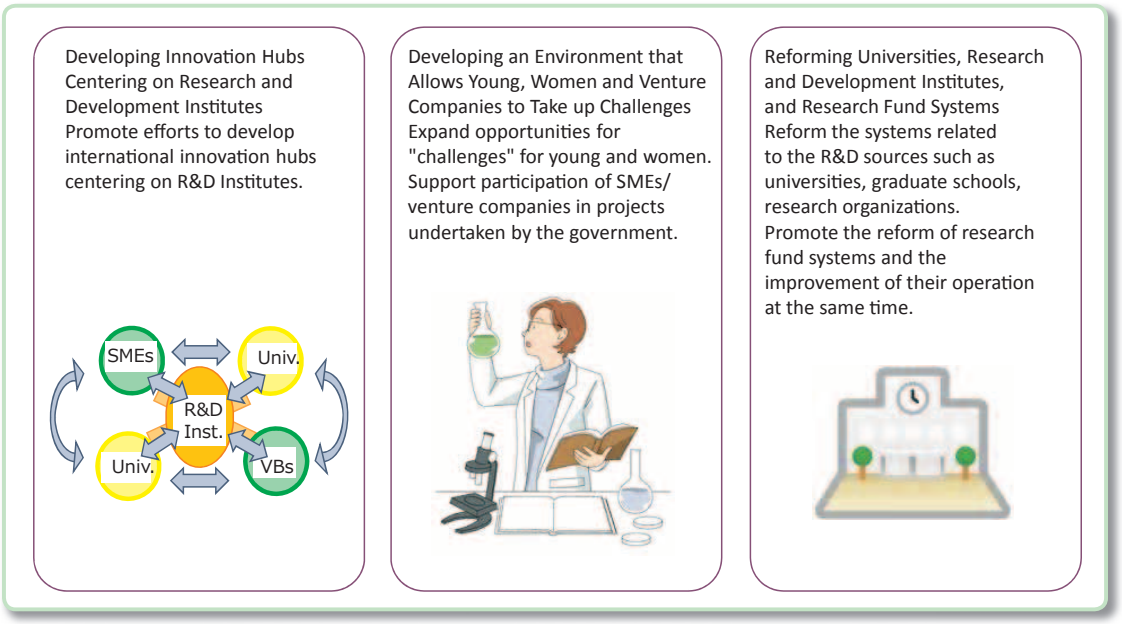
Considering Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games as a great opportunity to showcase STI originated from Japan to the world, efforts for solving policy issues will be accelerated with the Olympic Games set as a realistic goal. And at the same time, sustainable activities will be promoted that drive the Japanese society after the Olympics to a "virtuous cycle of growth."

In coordination with related organizations, specific initiatives and timetables related to science and technology are now under consideration.

Creating an Environment Suitable for STI

An environment suitable for STI is a social environment that has a wide variety of motivated people engaging in Science and Technology and provides a framework in which they can play an active part.

In order to create such a social environment, the Comprehensive Strategy focus on the expansion of opportunities for diverse "challenges" and "interactions" of motivated people engaging in science and technology.



Fulfilling Headquarter Function of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation

Pursuant to the "Partial Revision of the Act for Establishment of the Cabinet Office" enforced on May 19, 2014 and the reorganization of the council, to fulfill the headquarters function further, the Budgeting Strategy Committee, SIP, and ImPACT established last year will be promoted continuously and strongly.

An effort will be made to set up a new system as early as possible for positioning an R&D Institutes undertaking creative work that produces world class results as a "Special National Research and Development Institute (tentative name)".