



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

**“Lights and Shadows
of Science and Technology“**

Speech

by the Federal Minister of Education and Research

Dr Annette Schavan, MdB

**on the occasion of the
Science and Technology in Society Forum**

in Kyoto

on 7 October 2007

Check against delivery!

Science and research have global effects. Their importance on the international agenda is increasing. We will only be able to find convincing answers to the great questions of our time if policy-makers take advantage of the knowledge and findings of science.

The new definition of peace is development. Research encourages development in our countries — from a technological, social, cultural and humane point of view. Research and development are the sources of future prosperity in our countries.

Our science systems are becoming more and more international, and the number of international research collaborations is on the rise. That is why this forum here in Kyoto is such an excellent opportunity to bring the expertise of the scientific and research communities into the focus of international politics and to conduct a dialogue about central issues.

This initiative is taking place for the fourth time this year, and I would like to express my warm thanks to Mr Omi for his commitment.

Japan will soon take over the G 8 presidency from Germany. The coming presidency year will be very important for our joint work on the creation of an international research agenda. That is the mission that the heads of state and government gave us at the G 8 Summit in Heiligendamm.

The scope of the international research agenda will go far beyond the group of the G 8 countries. It will also include emerging and developing countries. This sets an important signal.

We all have an interest in preserving the earth's natural resources for future generations, and we all want healthy food, clean water, and a safe life – no matter what culture we are from or what religion we belong to.

Strengthening international research cooperation and creating a joint research agenda will help us pool our strengths and competences. It will give us the opportunity to develop joint strategies for sustainable development. It will give policy-makers access to knowledge and expertise and help them identify new approaches and priorities. It will also provide insights into the effectiveness of possible solutions.

In order to ensure that the international research agenda is successful, we need to increase our investment in science and research. The European Union has set itself a target for 2010:

Three percent of Gross Domestic Product is to be invested in research and development. This will require both the public sector and the private sector to considerably increase their

spending in this area. Today's investments in research and development are the basis for the prosperity of future generations.

Energy and climate protection research are two of the most important subjects of the international research agenda. At the G 8 Summit in Heiligendamm, the first agreements on the utilization of innovations and the technology collaborations that are necessary in order to achieve a more efficient use of energy were made. They send very important signals. In Heiligendamm, the heads of state and government accepted the UN's climate report as the basis for future climate protection policies. The report has brought new impetus into the international debate on climate protection.

One of the international research agenda's key global challenges is to find viable ways of influencing climate change in a positive way. That is something we need to put at the focus of our national research policies. The German Federal Government will present an extensive High-Tech Strategy for Climate Protection later this month.

Six weeks ago, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a speech here in Kyoto in which she invoked the Kyoto Protocol and called for renewed efforts to meet our joint responsibility for the future. With this STS Forum, we are following her plea. Science and research have global effects. They offer specific solutions to help us fulfil our joint responsibility.

A responsibility towards Planet Earth, the people in our countries, and future generations.

I firmly believe that we can only create a healthy environment for the future if we all work together.