

STSフォーラムにおける中川副大臣スピーチ原稿

【10月4日（日）「政治指導者、科学者、産業界関係者間の対話」】

Mr. Vice-President;
Ministers;
Chairmen;
Distinguished delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon one and all. It is a great pleasure to see the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum convening here today. As the representative from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, MEXT I would like to take this opportunity to greet you all and make a few remarks.

Japan has just experienced its first elected regime change in sixty years. I am Masaharu Nakagawa, the senior vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in the new Hatoyama Cabinet. Thank you for inviting me to speak at this conference, where many world leaders congregate.

MEXT oversees a diverse range of disciplines such as education, science, culture, and sports. We play a major role in realizing the ideals of the Democratic Party of Japan, DPJ which emphasizes child-rearing, science promotion, and environmental issues.

Presently, the government is deliberating on priority policies for the coming-year budget. I am currently experiencing serious obstacles in pushing forth with the process for formulating budgets for projects that are important to me. Today, I will be talking to you about these problems, along with possible solutions and recommendations.

First on the agenda is the environment. As some of you may remember, Prime Minister Hatoyama declared a 25% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 compared against 1990 levels. This is truly a revolutionary figure. This explains why various corners of industry will likely resist such efforts in the name of resistance to the government over-burdening citizens. However, it is simply natural for Japan to bear a heavy burden in its environmental efforts if

it is serious about being the world leader in environmental preservation. We have already set our hearts on these goals, with conviction. Hence, MEXT intends to set this as a top priority and go forth with resolve.

We must admit, however, that forming the path to such a lofty goal is quite daunting. Although schools and public facilities are progressive in their efforts to install solar panels, such systems would only be able to cover 2% of overall electricity demand even if they were installed in every residence in Japan. The reality is that achieving this goal of 25% is extremely difficult even with the constant technological progress of commercial products and the diffusion of eco-friendly cars.

So what methods do we have at our disposal to overcome these obstacles? I always say, "We cannot simply cling to conventional ideas, thinking only in a straight line!" Seven domestic Agencies including Japan are collaborating to construct International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, ITER in France, Brechignac ICSU President's place as you know.; I recall our tremendous disappointment at losing the competition for hosting this project. Fusion energy is the ultimate form of energy and environmental measure. I believe that we need astute decision-making capable of identifying and cultivating budding breakthrough technologies in new areas other than superconductivity and silicon. We also must carefully consider the most daring, strategic way to allocate budgeted funds for science promotion to, not only the environmental field, but all areas.

In addition, we also hope to tackle two other challenges. One is how to achieve the maximization of private sector funds for research & development; there is a limit to how far public funds can go in supporting the process from basic research to application, innovation, and then commercialization. Although specifics are still undecided, it should be possible to secure 100% public funding, in the future, for promising basic research projects. On the other hand, the costs for commercializing such research with market potential should come from the private sector in forms such as investment funds or even treasury investment and loans. Ideally, such a scheme could result in a tremendous inflow of funds for science and technology.

Next, it is important that we attract the world's best and brightest to

Japanese universities and research centers. We would like to provide support for the realization of a worldwide network of universities and research centers with Japanese research hubs staffed with the world's best talent, working together to achieve a prosperous tomorrow for all mankind.

During the days when the DPJ was the opposition, I dedicated most of my time to fiscal, financial, and diplomatic matters. In the current climate of financial uncertainty, every country runs the risk of cutbacks in funds for Science and Technology research, and Japan is no exception. This is perhaps why I, with my background, was given the chance to wave the flag for the promotion of Japanese Science and Technology. There must never again be such a global financial disaster, where gamblers shuffle money attempting in vain to create something from nothing! At the same time, countless seeds of scientific innovation are budding worldwide! I am committed to devising creative schemes that will allow the suitable allocation of funds to such promising projects.

Finally, I extend my heartiest hopes for the further advancement of the participants here today, all world leaders in Science and Technology. I also declare my intent to dedicate my efforts to cooperating with you all in realizing a happy future for humanity. Thank you and I eagerly look forward to our coming productive working relationship.