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Press Release

**Report on the Third Annual Meeting of the
Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum*
Kyoto, September 10-12, 2006**

The Third Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum* was held in Kyoto from September 10 through 12, 2006, under the overall theme of “Science and Technology in Society: Lights and Shadows”. From 70 countries, regions and international organizations, a total of approximately 600 participants such as leading scientists and researchers including 4 Nobel Laureates and 26 university presidents, policymakers including 25 ministers, business executives and opinion leaders attended this three-day forum.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe, officially represented the Japanese Government in lieu of Prime Minister Koizumi who was visiting Helsinki for the ASEM summit. (*His complete speech is posted on our website.) In his keynote address entitled “Pride,” Abe emphasized the value of dialogue among science, business and politics, and that it was important to appropriately harmonize knowledge, and power.

Koji Omi, Member of the House of Representatives and **Chairman of the STS *forum* (Non-Profit Organization)**, concluded the forum by stressing the following discussion points of the Statement issued at the closing plenary session:

“First, the key to future sustainability of humankind is to live in harmony with nature, striking a balance between economic activity and environment protection, particularly by reducing greenhouse gases.

Second, we need to make progress in energy efficiency, and further develop alternative energy sources. We want to go beyond the Kyoto Protocol, for a new, practical and effective framework in which all countries, including the United States, China and India will participate.

Third, we recognized that developing vaccines and medical therapies against infectious diseases such as AIDS, avian flu and malaria is vital for humankind’s future.

Fourth, we feel it is important to establish common international rules or standards that will enable researchers in all countries to collaborate in their research activities.

Fifth, further development of Information and Communication Technology or ICT is necessary to build a thriving future for humankind, and reducing the vulnerabilities of networks and ensuring privacy are also of vital importance.

Sixth, since science and technology are essential for the effective socio-economic advancement of the developing countries, we acknowledge the importance of more international science and technology collaboration in the form of joint research and

capacity building.

It is true that science and technology have become so advanced that we are prone to feel as if humankind can control the globe at will. We need to think seriously about what humankind and the globe should be like in 50 or even 100 years from now. It is important for all people to think of science and technology issues as their own. Science and technology should not control humankind; humankind should control science and technology.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the STS *forum* will convene from **October 7 through 9, 2007** in Kyoto, Japan.

[Attachment:
Statement]

<For further information>

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