

Cabinet Office
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Kyoto Chamber of Commerce
Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ)

PRESS RELEASE

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum* Kyoto, October 5-7, 2008

Kyoto, October 7, 2008 - The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum* was held in Kyoto from Oct. 5 through 7, 2008, under the main theme of "Harmony with Nature" and "How is Information and Communication Technology affecting Humankind?" From 91 countries, regions, and international organizations, a total of over 750 leading scientists, including 5 Nobel Laureates, top policymakers including 29 ministers, business executives and media leaders attended the program.

His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince of Japan gave an address at the Closing Plenary Session, and expressed his support for the objectives of the forum.

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

Climate Change: We need to establish a new international post-Kyoto framework in which all countries, including the United States, China and India participate.

Energy: We agreed that nuclear power is crucially important in view of the growing global energy needs, and recognized that we should increase the implementation of fission power, under strict conditions of nuclear safeguards, safety and security. The development of nuclear fusion power is also essential for the future.

Biofuel: As potential adverse effects of biofuels on global food and environmental problems are being pointed out, research and development in technologies for second generation biofuels from non-food sources should be promoted.

Genome research: We agreed that personalized medicine should be emphasized while international standards for privacy protection is needed.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) should be used extensively to solve global environment, education, and health issues and contribute to business innovation with sustained concern for safeguards.

Intellectual property (IP): A comprehensive strategic approach for the establishment of a pro-innovation worldwide IP infrastructure should be pursued.

Official development assistance (ODA): A portion of ODA should be used to encourage joint research activities in developing countries in order to harness the human assets of those countries in addition to the financial power of developed countries.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the *STS forum* will convene from **October 4 through 7, 2009 in Kyoto**, Japan.

<For further information and Press Registration>

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