

Science and Technology in Society *forum*
The 2nd Annual Meeting
September 13, 2005, Kyoto, Japan

STATEMENT

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum* was held from September 11th to 13th, with the participation of approximately 500 leading scientists, policymakers, business executives and opinion leaders from 68 countries and regions. His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince of Japan attended the opening ceremony and expressed his support for the aims of the *forum*, and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi noted the importance of using science and technology to ensure mankind's future prosperity. Stimulating discussions and exchanges of views on the lights and shadows of science and technology took place from the standpoint of the future of humankind. The main points of the discussions were as follows.

The key to future sustainability is for humankind to live in harmony with the environment. We recognized the necessity to develop a practical and effective framework that all countries will participate in, to deal with CO₂ emissions and other climate-forcing emissions.

While we agree that it is necessary to further develop renewable energy sources, such as solar, biomass and hydrogen, a common recognition was also attained that the use of nuclear fission power, under strict conditions of safety and non-proliferation, is very important, and investment to develop and implement nuclear fusion power for the future is essential.

We feel it important to try to establish common international rules or standards concerning bioethics that will enable researchers in all countries to collaborate and have the opportunity to be equally productive in their research activities.

We reached a consensus on the further development of Information and Communications Technology or ICT, to build a thriving future for humankind. Most participants agreed that interoperability, security and privacy protection are imperative for progress toward an information society. We also recognized the importance of digital archiving for giving everyone equal access to science and technology knowledge. Resolving the digital divide issue will be of common benefit to humankind.

It was agreed that creating opportunities for universal access to education, regardless of gender, race or national origin, is vital for our future. Education, from primary schooling to advanced studies, must be carried out under a rigorous environment which enables all students to develop their potential.

The idea of establishing a global, integrated system of intellectual property rights was proposed and received the support of many participants.

We reached a common consensus that we should try to prevent the use of science and technology by terrorists and also develop measures for using science and technology to defend against terrorism.

We recognized that developing vaccines and medical therapies against infectious diseases like AIDS is crucial for mankind's future and is one of the most important fields where science and technology can make a contribution.

Moreover, in order to protect our fellow citizens against natural disasters, all of us agreed on the strong necessity for international cooperation to establish early warning, human safety and rescue systems and the more efficient use of science and technology toward that end.

In the field of development assistance, most of us acknowledged the importance of offering science and technology-related aid, together with capacity building.

Every year, science and technology brings new discoveries and innovations that influence our lives, society and culture. We acknowledged that the *forum* serves as an important venue for exchanging views on the latest developments in this field and their impact on humankind.

It is important for all people, regardless of their background, to consider science and technology issues as their own. Recognizing that both the lights and shadows of science and technology will have a great impact on the human race, we agreed that science and technology should not control humankind; humankind should control science and technology.

It was decided, at a Council Meeting during the *forum*, to establish a non-profit organization that will manage the *forum*. We also agreed to hold an STS *forum* every year in Kyoto and the next one will be held from September 10th to 12th, 2006.