

Science and Technology in Society *forum*

5th Annual Meeting

October 7, 2008 (Embargo until 12:30)

Kyoto, Japan

STATEMENT

1. The 5th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum* was held from October 5 to 7. Over 750 leading scientists, policymakers, business executives and media leaders gathered from 91 countries, regions and international organizations. This year's STS *forum* discussed science and technology under the main theme "Harmony with Nature." We agreed upon the following.
2. Harmony with nature is the most important challenge for humankind. We have been discussing global environmental problems every year at the STS *forum* and stressed the need to establish a new international post-Kyoto framework in which all countries, including the United States, China and India, will participate. We welcomed the G8 leaders' shared view of seeking to adopt a global target for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The time has come to enact an action plan to solve this problem.
3. Given the growing global demand for energy, rapid progress in energy efficiency, conservation and clean alternative energy development are indispensable. Among these, we agreed that nuclear power is crucially important. We 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.
4. Biofuels have been developed as alternatives to fossil fuels, but we should recognize their potentially adverse effects on global food and environmental problems. Therefore, research and development in technologies for non-subsidized second-generation biofuels from non-food sources should be promoted.

5. Given the growing number of the hungry and the unstable food supply, we believe expansion of food production is an urgent priority, particularly in the developing world. Therefore, both GMO and non-GMO research should be promoted by paying attention to safety while continuing to make efforts to gain public acceptance.
6. In line with the significant progress made in genome research, we agreed that personalized medicine should be emphasized and international standards for privacy protection are needed. We also expect that the rate of advancement in preventive medicine will be accelerated.
7. We reached consensus that ICT should be used extensively to enable solutions to problems of the global environment, education and health, and to contribute to business innovation. The digital divide must be addressed. We should also pursue enhanced efficiency in ICT applications while ensuring that public concerns over the security, privacy and use of personal data are met.
8. Keeping in mind that the intellectual property (IP) system is essential for innovation, we should pursue a comprehensive strategic approach for the establishment of a worldwide pro-innovation IP infrastructure to drive the advancement of science and technology for global socio-economic development.
9. It is important to encourage joint research in developing countries with the participation of researchers and scientists from developed countries. We recommend collaboration with developed nations, in addition to using Official Development Assistance (ODA), for joint research to mobilize and empower the human potential of developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of a new initiative of science and technology diplomacy by the Japanese government.
10. In addition to meetings of science and technology ministers and university presidents, the program included for the first time this year a meeting of academy presidents and a session of young scientists and engineers. We believe that the *STS forum* has been evolving and is becoming more influential in decision-making for the future of humankind.

11. Realizing that the development of science and technology now has an important impact on society, we concluded that there should be more direct dialogue between political leaders and scientists, and that scientists should be involved in policy formulation. As part of this process, policymakers should bring the needs of society to the attention of scientists and properly reflect accumulated scientific knowledge in their policies. Scientists should actively propose policy recommendations based on their scientific knowledge. The general public needs to understand and support science and technology, and the media will have an increasingly important role to play in this exchange.

12. We consider the *forum* to be an important venue for learning about and discussing the latest developments in science and technology, and how they affect human society. Recognizing that both the lights and the shadows of science and technology have a great impact on humankind, and that we share a common destiny on Earth, it is important for people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, nationality or gender, to consider these issues as their own. We agreed that we should try our utmost to accumulate knowledge and understanding, and use them wisely, in order to survive and prosper.

13. We agreed to hold the 6th Annual Meeting of the STS *forum* in Kyoto from October 4 to 6, 2009. We look forward to meeting here again to contribute to building a better future for humankind in harmony with nature.

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