

Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum* 6th Annual Meeting

October 6, 2009 (Embargo until 12:30)

Kyoto, Japan

STATEMENT

1. The 6th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum* was held from October 4 to 6. Over 800 scientists, policymakers, business executives and media leaders gathered from 85 countries, regions and international organizations. We agreed upon the following.
2. We stressed the need, as we have in the past, to establish a new post-Kyoto Protocol framework in which all the countries of the world, including the United States, China and India, will participate. We hope that our message will be reflected in the discussions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in December 2009 in Copenhagen, and that an agreement will be reached to establish an international framework for effectively mitigating greenhouse gas emissions that includes all countries.
3. We discussed the need for more support from the developed countries for the developing countries to strengthen their capacities and human capital for science and technology, in addition to financial assistance, to contribute to the growth and progress of the developing countries. We welcome that Japan and other countries have adopted science and technology diplomacy toward developing countries.
4. Despite the severe economic recession that has put strains on national budgets, we must maintain investment in science and technology and continue to promote science and technology as the driving force for economic recovery and sustainable growth.
5. Rapid progress in improving energy efficiency and conservation, and clean alternative energy development, are essential. We agreed that nuclear power is crucially important to decreasing carbon emissions. We recognized that we should increase the implementation of fission power, under strict conditions of nuclear safeguards, safety and security, including the management of waste streams. We must increase the capacity for producing nuclear fission power plants based on existing technologies while at the same time expand research into next-generation systems. The development of nuclear fusion power should be pursued for the future.
6. The increased risk of nuclear proliferation has become a critical issue for the future of humankind. It is vital for us to address this threat and take decisive steps to prevent proliferation.
7. Regarding alternative energy, we recognized that transportation is still highly dependent on fossil fuels, and we reached a consensus that it is important to develop electric and fuel cell vehicles as soon as possible, provided that the power sources used reduce the carbon footprint without reducing the food supply.
8. A new international system is needed to enhance collaboration between industry, the WHO and nation-states to fight infectious diseases, including the H1N1 flu pandemic, through measures such as more education, targeted research, and more effective development and distribution of vaccines and medicines. Health service capacity in the developing countries must be strengthened.
9. Population growth, climate change and greater use and improvement of health care services will increase the cost burden to society. New systems of health provision based on technologies such as genomics and regenerative medicine represented by stem cells must be fully explored. We also expect that the rate of progress in preventive medicine will be accelerated.

10. In response to the serious food supply crisis caused by the world's increasing population, richer and more varied diets and the demand for biofuels, as well as climate change and environmental degradation, we should support agricultural research and extension, more resilient crops, better farming systems and more effective distribution systems. We should also promote the use of GMOs under strict conditions of safety.
11. Clean water availability is now one of the most pressing global issues we must deal with. Science and technology has played an important role in desalination, recycling and water purification. We should further promote research and development in this field.
12. While the mitigation of global climate change due to emissions of greenhouse gases is essential, immediate adaptation measures to minimize human suffering must be pursued in parallel, locally and regionally. This is especially important for water. Management of water is inherently regional and local. Regional models based on better locally produced monitoring data can guide local action. We must think globally, assess regionally and act locally.
13. We shared the view that the resolution of analytical models and monitoring systems used to produce regional climate assessments must be improved. This will require a commitment to significantly improve worldwide capacity, space, air, ground and ocean monitoring.
14. We reached a consensus that further development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is essential for improving human lives and promoting economic growth. We should be wise enough to utilize the cutting edge of ICT such as cloud computing, while ensuring that public concerns over the security, privacy and use of personal data are met. We also discussed that the fusion of mobile robotics technology and IT has the potential to be of great service to humankind.
15. We agreed that we should further promote international cooperation to establish a global, integrated system of intellectual property rights (IPR). The long overdue first step is harmonization of patentability standards and the introduction of a general grace period after publication. Respect for IPR and standardization of fundamental technology are essential for the dissemination and application of the knowledge brought by science and technology. Moreover, it is necessary to make further efforts to protect against IPR infringement for the sound development of the world economy.
16. We confirmed the important role of universities in contributing to socio-economic development and enhancing responsible citizenship. Business-academia-government collaboration significantly contributes to advancing science and technology. Math and science education at all levels is vital for promoting scientific literacy and an informed democracy.
17. We noted the importance of fair and objective reporting by the media on the lights and shadows of science and technology with regard to public policy issues. For that purpose, it is very important to stimulate continuing exchanges between scientists and the media.
18. The STS *forum* is not only a conference but also a movement for global leaders in the business, government, science and media fields, and we expect that the support of the participants in this forum will broaden this movement and carry its message to other venues in the world. We look forward to meeting again to contribute to building a better future for humankind in harmony with nature.
19. The 7th Annual Meeting of the STS *forum* will be held in Kyoto from **Sunday, October 3 to Tuesday, October 5, 2010.**