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Embargo until 12:30

Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum* 9th Annual Meeting October 9, 2012, Kyoto, Japan STATEMENT

1. The **9th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum*** took place from October 7 to 9, with the participation of about 1,000 global leaders in science and technology, policy, business and media from 96 countries, regions and international organizations who met to reflect on how to expand the “lights” and control the “shadows” of science and technology, and promote innovation for solving our shared challenges.
2. Science, technology and innovation will be needed to counter global environmental threats and promote growth and prosperity. The necessary investments should be made in these, despite current difficult economic and social conditions.
3. Any future energy supply should include a wide range of options that adhere to the best standards of safety and environmental and social compatibility, and life cycle cost assessment. Different countries may choose different paths to an energy-secure and sustainable future. Nuclear energy will continue to play a significant role in many countries for the foreseeable future. The Fukushima accident taught us the crucial importance of nuclear safety. Strengthening nuclear security and non-proliferation are also vital.
4. In the area of global health problems, research into genomic and regenerative medicine has developed very rapidly. Under these conditions, research into personalized and preventive medicine should also be accelerated. Medical programs for dealing with infectious and non-communicable diseases, and in particular developing antibiotics for drug-resistant microbes, must be strengthened. A new international system is needed for better collaboration among industry, academia, the public sector and WHO, with special attention to strengthening capacity in developing countries.
5. ICT is a highly effective tool for reducing disparities among and within nations in access to education, healthcare and business opportunities and is a key enabler of innovation and productivity enhancement. In a rapidly changing ICT environment, transformative in ways that cannot be foreseen, international cooperation in cybersecurity and privacy measures have become crucially important.
6. Nanotechnology will play a vitally important role in various fields including electronics, photonics, energy, water, medicine, life science and materials. Nanotechnology is a key technology for innovation as well as for exploring new frontiers.
7. We need to strengthen our capacity to defend against and cope with disasters through science, research, monitoring and early warning systems, infrastructure modifications and land-use planning in keeping with hazard maps.
8. Collaboration among academia, industry and government is the key to innovation and entrepreneurship. This collaboration, including international activities, should be promoted and be inclusive, and we expect academies of science, engineering and medicine to play an important role. The importance of engineering in translating knowledge into human welfare was emphasized.

STS forum (Non-Profit Organization)

9. In light of the global development of corporate business and academic research activities, intellectual property systems should be improved as a basic international infrastructure. International harmonization should be accelerated to stimulate innovation and economic development.
10. Presidents of 16 research organizations met at the STS *forum* for the first time this year and had very productive exchanges of views. We welcome that this meeting will be held again next year and expect further cooperation among these organizations to be accelerated.
11. Science and technology diplomacy enhances relations across national boundaries. Supporting education, research and local entrepreneurship is essential for capacity-building in developing countries. Funding agencies should finance international science collaboration programs promoting multilateral arrangements, especially on global issues.
12. The adjunct session on Regional Climate Change reviewed best practices in promoting adaptation to regional climate change: for example, how coastal cities and regions are preparing for sea level rise. Knowledge Action Networks are proving to be an effective tool in local adaptation.
13. Science and technology brings changes, and the public can make informed decisions, provided that the risks and benefits are clearly explained. Therefore, exchanges between scientists and society should be broadened and improved. High-quality science programs should be developed to interest and inform the public about science.
14. To solve the serious problems of humankind, science and technology alone will not be sufficient without significant changes in individual and social behavior. The social sciences, humanities and social innovations have an important role to play in this area. Public education will be needed to promote awareness about the need for more efficient use of finite resources.
15. The aging of the population poses special challenges and opportunities, not just in providing geriatric care or social safety nets, but also in rethinking the social context of the participation of the elderly as productive citizens. Science and technology have a crucial role to play in improving the quality of later life.
16. More than half the world's population is already living in cities, and urbanization is growing rapidly, which raises a variety of challenges and opportunities. We must promote more livable and humane urban environments with efficient, sustainable "smart cities" using science and technology and urban planning, and involve the citizens themselves.
17. The world's population continues to expand and the earth is finite. We need to think of humanity's condition, not just in twenty or thirty years' time, but over a longer-term perspective. In this respect, the environment, energy, food and water are critical sustainability issues. This means that living in harmony with nature is of the utmost importance for humankind. We will therefore continue to focus on sustainability.
18. We look forward to meeting here again to contribute to building a better future for humankind. We agreed to hold the 10th Annual Meeting of the STS *forum* in Kyoto from **Sunday, October 6 to Tuesday, October 8, 2013**. We commit to activities to pave the way for future generations.

<For Further Information>
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