

Summary

Science Advisors' Roundtable on “International researcher mobility for a better world”

organized by the Center for Research and Development Strategy
(CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Sunday, 2nd October 2022, 12:10-13:30 in Kyoto, Japan



Participants (alphabetical order):

Abdul Hamid, Zakri	Chairman, Atri Advisory; former Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia
Colwell, Rita R.	Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland College Park
Hashimoto, Kazuhito	Science and Technology Advisor to the Cabinet President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Kawai, Maki	President, National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), member of the UN 10-Member Group
Kotani, Motoko	Science and Technology Co-Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Executive Vice President for Research, Tohoku University
Kuramochi, Takao	Deputy Director-General, Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Matsumoto, Yoichiro	Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
Monks, Paul	Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK Government
Nakamura, Michiharu	President Emeritus, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), former member of the UN 10-Member Group
Simmross, Sabine	Assistant and Chief of Staff to the European Research Council President (on behalf of Leptin, Maria, President, European Research Council)
Turekian, Vaughan	NAS executive director Policy and Global Affairs Division

Moderation & Contact:

Arimoto Tateo, Principal Fellow, Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS)
Asano Kana, Fellow, Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS)

Discussion summary:

JST's Center for Research and Development Strategy held a roundtable discussion on the occasion of the 19th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum (<http://www.stsforum.org/>), bringing together those who are playing scientific advisory roles in various ways to discuss common interests and concerns. The G7 Research Compact (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100200013.pdf>), published following the Cornwall Summit in 2021 alongside the Leaders' Communique, stated that "we commit to promoting international research cooperation and the conditions of freedom, independence, openness, reciprocity and transparency under which it flourishes." Global networking is fundamental to the success of such research cooperation.

The discussion focused on how to encourage "*International researcher mobility*" and the participants shared ideas on this matter. **They have recognized the importance of continuous international collaboration among top-class researchers from countries that share values in order to drive top science for realizing a better world.** Specifically, they have acknowledged the following:

- It is significant to encourage researcher mobility in an organizational framework such as laboratory to-laboratory, institution to institution. Collaborations that can be passed on to the next generation on decades basis should be critical.
- International collaboration of all types is important, from individual collaboration to bi- and multi-partnerships, and from young researchers to PI-class researchers. International collaboration must be based on shared norms and relationships based on trust.
- International collaboration requires resources such as capability, information sharing, persons to enhance networking. The mobility funds (glue money and soft money) other than research funds are effective. The amount does not need to be large, but at least travel and other exchange expenses should be covered.
- We need effective funding mechanisms, such as ERC Synergy grants, and networking among funding agencies to harness them. Internationalization of the research environment in each country, including operation of large international research facilities, is also necessary to enhance international research mobility.
- Gender diversity and inclusion should be considered and handled appropriately when promoting international research mobility.

In conclusion, participants noted that communication with various stakeholders, including scientists and policy makers, is crucial in science advice. As for the relationship between scientists and policy makers, it should not be a one-way street, as if the scientists know everything. There are many smart policy makers and politicians who really know what is needed to solve problems, and what is most needed is dialogue. Therefore, global frameworks such as the STS forum, ISC, AAAS, INGBA, FMSTAN, UN-STI for SDG, etc., should be effectively linked to form "a network of networks". The participants agreed to discuss these and other important issues on an ongoing basis.