Keynote

What is the Global Innovation Ecosystem?

Speaker

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Summary

The concept of a global innovation ecosystem is not well understood, agreed or defined. We proposed this idea last year, but it has still not achieved a solid definition. The purpose of this workshop is to identify and/or define or clarify what a global innovation ecosystem means. This concept should be shared at least by the people in this room and we would like to spread this concept into the broader area of people all over the world. Yesterday I said that at the next G-8 summit we would try to hold a similar symposium to make a proposal to the higher-level people in the world. Therefore, I would expect you to discuss on a more concrete, practical basis and tell us what you think when you hear this term "global innovation ecosystem." At the end of the workshop, we will hopefully have some agreement on what it is and what we should do to achieve it.

What is innovation? We are mainly interested in science and technology-based innovation, which is a very large concept. It encompasses all of the processes by which scientific knowledge is converted to economic value and socioeconomic value. Normally, people discuss only the economic side, but we will try to add the societal value as well because it is very important. Perhaps there are more costs associated with it, but we must address social issues as well. To convert scientific knowledge to socioeconomic value is defined as innovation. This innovation is very often destructive. It is a rejection of current values and a creation of new values. This is very much related to innovation in social systems and in society itself. We must change social systems and mindsets.

Another model is the "step and loop model" of science-based innovation. It is a modification of Branscomb's model. Scientific knowledge comes out of a sea of ideas, goes through proof of concept, through demonstration and prototyping into marketing and product development. If you are lucky, it reaches the final stage of growth and profit. A similar chart can be drawn on the social side as well. The final stage is the field test and social implementation. There are various barriers that must be overcome. The question is how to allow ideas to cross over the barriers. That is what the innovation in a

system is all about. It is not a linear model, but a loop.

Be a system consists of input, interaction fields and output. Vision goes to proof of concept to interaction fields or "ba", prototypes and then to markets and public procurement. Necessary components include funding, human resources/education, public acceptance and an international competition and collaboration. We have had two workshops on innovation systems, from which we derived a detailed chart which has been published in the booklet in both English and Japanese. This chart shows what the government should do to establish an innovation ecosystem. We made a more concrete proposal to the government than Innovation 25.

To get a more global sense, we should pick up some of the issues that should be addressed. Some examples would be poverty, diseases, environment, food, energy and natural resources. All of these should be solved by the global innovation ecosystem. Likewise, sustainable development, the borderless economy, expansion of developed countries, management of globally integrated enterprises, and disparity among and within countries. Yesterday we heard about how we are evolving from a knowledge-based economy to a conceptual economy. This is based on the Apple iPod, a new concept that it let other people work for. In this case, "other people" refers to Singapore, India and Japan. Apple took all the best technologies to realize a concept.