

## Opening Remarks

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this trend has persisted.

Welcome on behalf of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ). Innovation is equivalent to the power and influence of a country. Innovation is an extremely broad concept that includes not only technological innovation, but also system innovation and innovation of mindset. However, there are limitations as to what Japan alone can accomplish in terms of innovation. Linkage and cooperation amongst countries is needed, especially with the large number of global-scale issues and challenges ahead, including energy, water and food-related issues.

It is hoped that the Global Innovation Ecosystem (GIES) will bring about major contributions to these issues. The SCJ is also endeavoring to this end. On an annual basis, around 10 projects are launched with committees meeting over a period of a year on various priority matters. However, it takes an accumulation of knowledge and years of discussions to tackle global issues. Since last year, there have been committees considering activities in the long run: energy issues, water issues, and food issues. The decisions will happen at the G8 Summit that is to be held in Japan. In line with this event, representatives from the Academies of the 13 G8+5 countries will join together and issue a statement. Challenges to be discussed are global climate change and global health, as well as water issues and food. In all of these challenges, the cooperation and support of industry are indispensable.

There are many scientists on the one hand who have a high level of awareness and consciousness, but on the other hand some scientists think that global-scale issues are at a lower level of importance. This will lead to a lot of risk going forward. Reducing that disparity of mindset and awareness is another mission for the SCJ.

The GIES started in 2006 very successfully. Last year was also fruitful and successful. If it is successful this year, it means that