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EU-Japan Science Policy Forum 2024
Towards "Transformative Science, Technology and Innovation Policies"

Co-organised by
Delegation of the European Union to Japan and
Japan Science and Technology Agency

In cooperation with
Cabinet Office of Japan and
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan

Saturday, 5 October 2024
11:30-15:30

Conference Room D (1F), Kyoto International Conference Center
Takaragaike, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto

Discussion Summary

The EU-Japan Science Policy Forum 2024 was held in Kyoto on October 5, 2024 and was co-organised by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and the Cabinet Office of Japan. This was the 13th time that the forum has been held, with 87 high level representatives of the government entities, research funding and research performing organisations, academia, and industry, from Japan and European Union, who came to Kyoto to participate in the 21st Annual Meeting of the STS Forum. This year, the theme of the event was : *Towards "Transformative Science, Technology and Innovation Policies"*, with research security and knowledge valorisation being the key topics. The event was very timely in the

context of the preparations to the 7th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan in Japan, and the 10th edition of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

At the opening of the meeting, representative of both sides confirmed that in recent years, the development of emerging science and technology such as AI, quantum, biotechnology, and semiconductors has been remarkable, and its impact on society has been expanding, while at the same time, geopolitical tensions and various global challenges are raising. In order to ensure a free and open international order and, at the same time, research security, it is very important for partners who share the same basic values and principles in Science, Technology and Innovation, such as Japan and the EU, to cooperate closer than ever before.

In the policy briefs session, government officials from Japan and EU, shared the latest trends in STI policies on both sides, and acknowledged that this EU-Japan policy dialogue is extremely meaningful for recognizing the direction of science and technology and finding scientifically sensible solutions to global challenges. The government officials also confirmed that key common objectives are: to strengthen international policy coordination in science and technology; to ensure research security; to promote international research cooperation and brain circulation; to foster innovative human resources, and to establish a robust framework to eliminate silos.

This was followed by two interactive sessions.

Session I: Research Security and Integrity for Promoting International Collaboration

- International personnel exchanges and cooperation are essential to address global challenges such as climate change and pollution. In particular, international collaborative research jointly conducted by universities, industry, and governments is important for promoting global breakthroughs and innovation. However, in today's world of rising geopolitical tensions, security of research ecosystem is necessary in technological areas of high strategic importance.
- In this regard, identifying an appropriate balance between the openness of research and the protection of confidential research and creating an environment that maintains and promotes international collaboration is a priority for academic institutions, governments, and research organizations. A balanced approach is needed, with the flexibility to apply the logic of being as open as possible and as closed as necessary.
- Therefore, in promoting basic scientific research, it is necessary to thoroughly manage risks while ensuring the openness of research as much as possible, and taking into account the nature of each research field. It is governments' responsibility to formulate clear guidelines, through dialogue with stakeholders, and to support cross-border collaboration to encourage open scientific discussion and promote innovation, while appropriately protecting highly confidential research.
- Furthermore, funding authorities also need to be cognizant of the fact that ethical and human rights issues, along with national security issues, are increasingly challenging in science and technology, and must take these issues into account when funding responsible research.

Session II: Knowledge Valorisation: Creating Social and Economic Value from Knowledge

- Knowledge Valorisation addresses the question of how promising research results can be turned into societal solutions and into innovative (economic) progress. Academia-industry collaboration will be indispensable to achieve of high degree Knowledge Valorisation. The Forum discussed how obstacles to such collaboration can be addressed.
- Knowledge Valorisation would also require start-up support. A particular point of attention would be the development of academia-driven start-ups, the number of which is on the increase in for instance Japan. Another question is what would be acceptable risk for government agencies to take on when it comes to support for start-ups that the market itself can not generate.
- In the next 5 to 10 years, AI will become exponentially more popular as a method of conducting science and technology. Recent studies have shown that AI generate more scientific ideas than humans, which indicates the potential for further innovation. However, using AI involves also risks, which are not yet fully understood.
- Bearing these challenges in mind, designing new research funding policy is a challenge. But to achieve Knowledge Valorisation, achieving some degree of consensus between academia, industry and government would be a valuable tool for successful policy design.

The meeting concluded with the two sides confirming their dedication to continue discussing policy topics of mutual importance in the field of science, technology and innovation, and to further enhance concrete collaboration in top priority thematic and horizontal topics.

Annex

Agenda

11:30-11:50 *Welcome remarks*

- **Jean-Eric Paquet**, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan
- **Hiroshi Komiyama**, Chairman, STS forum

Remarks and toast

- **Kazuhito Hashimoto**, Science and Technology Advisor to the Cabinet; President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

11:50-12:50 *Keynote policy briefs*

- **Takayuki Fujiyoshi**, Deputy Director General for science, Technology and innovation Policy, Cabinet Office, Japan
- **Maria Cristina Russo**, Director, Prosperity, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Yuichi Inoue**, Director-General, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan
- **Sabine Henzler**, Director for Strategy, Work Programme and Resources, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Eiichi Yoneyama,** Deputy Director General for Economic Security, Cabinet Office / Cabinet Counsellor, National Security Secretariat, Cabinet Secretariat

High-level comments

- **Justas Nugaras,** Vice-Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, Lithuania
- **Teruo Fujii,** President, the University of Tokyo
- **Karin Markides**, President and CEO of Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology
- **Nikolay Vitanov**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Science, Bulgaria

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12:50-13:55 **Interactive session I: Research Security and Integrity for Promoting International Collaboration**

Session moderator

Osamu Kobayashi, Director, Department of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Speakers

- **Takao Someya**, Executive Director and Vice President; Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
- **Benedicte Loeseth**, Executive Director of Research System and International Cooperation, Research Council of Norway
- **Satoshi Sekiguchi**, Fellow, AIST / Director, Executive Vice President & CTO, AIST Solutions Co.
- **Pavel Kabat**, Secretary-General, International Human Frontier Science Programme Organisation

Discussants

- **Shigeo Koyasu**, Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and President of the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology (QST)
- **Andreas Göthenberg**, Executive Director, The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Reseaerch and Higher Deucation (STINT)
- **Yoichiro Matsumoto**, Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **Fiona Watt**, Director, European Molecular Biology Organisation

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13:55-14:05 **Coffee break**

14:05-15:15 **Interactive session II: Knowledge Valorisation: Creating Social and Economic Value from Knowledge**

Session moderator
Jean-Eric Paquet, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan

Speakers

- **Igor Papič**, Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Slovenia
- **Hiroaki Kitano**, Executive Deputy President and CTO, Sony Group Corporation
- **Maria Cristina Russo**, Director, Prosperity, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Hideo Ohno**, Special Advisor on Science and Technology to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Special Senior Advisor to the President, Tohoku University

Discussants

- **Yoshinao Mishima**, President, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
- **Maria Chiara Carrozza**, President, Italian National Research Council
- **Maki Kawai**, President of the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), Director General of the Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- **Iris Wieczorek**, CEO and President of IRIS Science Management Inc.

15:15-15:30 *Closing remarks*

- **Jens Brandenburg**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Germany
- **Kazuhito Hashimoto,** Science and Technology Advisor to the Cabinet; President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Masters of Ceremony

- **Tom Kuczynski**, Science and Technology Advisor, Delegation of the European Union to Japan
- **Kana Asano**, Fellow, Science Diplomacy Group, Center for Research and Development Strategy (CRDS), Japan Science and Technology Agency