

## Foreword

It has been more than 15 months since the occurrence of Great East Japan Earthquake, on March 11, 2011. Almost twenty thousand people were dead or are still missing, and the nuclear power plant accident forces many people to evacuate from their homes even now. And so, I once again offer my heartfelt condolences to those who were killed by the disaster, and I express my deepest sympathy to all the people suffered from the disaster.

This great earthquake has once again made us re-realize that Japan faces an extremely high risk of natural disasters. As the nation which has experienced such a powerful earthquake, we find it necessary to build a “Robust and Resilient Society” that can prevent or at least minimize risks and dangers in advance, revive from the damage quickly, and achieve more development than before. The risks and damages are not only the effects and damages caused by natural disasters, but also other various risks and dangers that our nation may face, such as energy supply problems, food supply problems, cyber crimes and infectious diseases.

This year’s White Paper is titled “Toward a Robust and Resilient Society – Lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake –,” and it clearly shows the various problems and lessons on science and technology revealed by the earthquake, and provides direction for science, technology and innovation policies toward a “Robust and Resilient Society.” I believe that, as a national strategy, we must strongly promote science, technology and innovation that will contribute to finding solutions to the various problems faced by society. For that purpose, the people involved need to seriously review the ways of science and technology, particularly in any missing thoughts, such as efforts on reducing risks and they need to consolidate knowledge from various fields, including the humanities and social sciences.

Even after having experienced Great East Japan Earthquake, many Japanese have high expectations for science and technology as a source of power for the achievement of reconstruction and revival, and for the realization of sustainable growth in the future. The government will never forget the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and we will make every effort to promote science and technology that will meet the expectations and demands of the Japanese society.

I sincerely hope that the White Paper will help you to understand the current measures we are taking in order to promote science and technology, and that our efforts will also serve as a reference for your efforts in the future.

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