

Section 2 Council for Science and Technology Policy

The Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) is placed in the Cabinet Office as a “council for key policy” for vigorously promoting Japan’s S&T policies, under the leadership of the Prime Minister. The Council is comprised of the Prime Minister as the chairperson, related Cabinet members, and expert members, etc., with the twin missions of overseeing the nation’s S&T efforts and offering comprehensive and fundamental policy plans and overall adjustment. (Table 2-1-2)

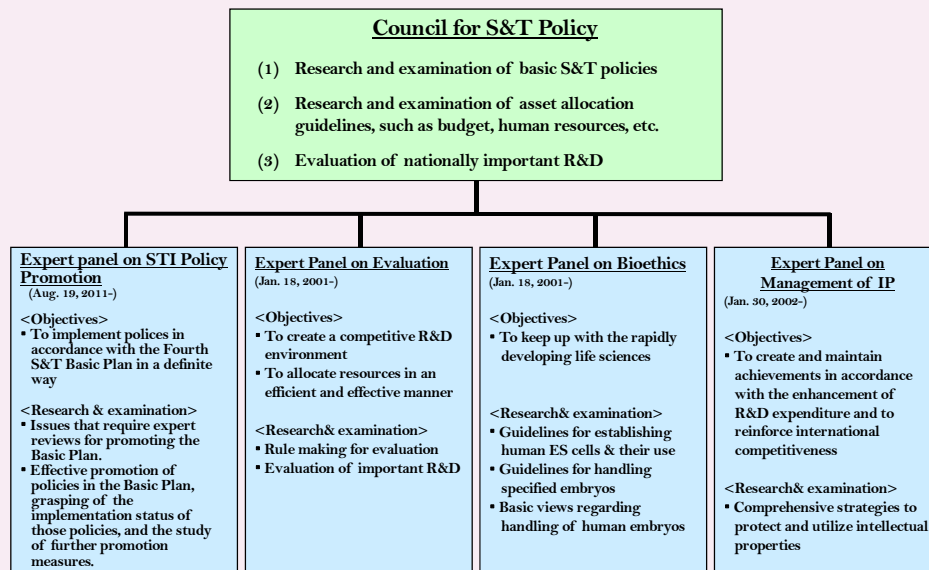
As of March 2012, there are four expert panels under the CSTP, including the Expert Panel on STI Policy Promotion, for examining technical aspects of key issues. (Figure 2-1-3)

Table 2-1-2 / List of Diet members in the CSTP (as of April 1, 2012)

Cabinet members	Yoshihiko Noda	Prime Minister
	Osamu Fujimura	Chief Cabinet Secretary
	Motohisa Furukawa	Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
	Tatsuo Kawabata	Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications
	Jun Azumi	Minister of Finance
	Hirofumi Hirano	Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
	Yukio Edano	Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
Experts	Masuo Aizawa (full-time)	Former president of Tokyo Institute of Technology
	Naoki Okumura (full-time)	Former executive vice president of Technical Development Bureau of Nippon Steel Corp.
	Toyoko Imae (part-time)	Professor emeritus of Nagoya University
	Takashi Shiraishi (part-time)	President and Professor of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
	Reiko Aoki (part-time)	Professor of the Institute of Economic Research of Hitotsubashi University
	Ryoji Chubachi (part-time)	Vice chairman of Sony Corp.
	Toshio Hirano (part-time)	President of Osaka University
	Takashi Onishi	President of the Science Council of Japan *affiliated institution

Source: Created by Cabinet Office

Figure 2-1-3 / Organization Chart of the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP)



Source: Created by Cabinet Office

1 Major Project of Council for S&T Policy FY 2011

In response to the GEJE, the CSTP reviewed the report for creating the 4th Basic Plan, (The report “Regarding Basic Policy for Science and Technology” (December 24, 2010)), and provided supplementary recommendations to related Cabinet Ministers (Supplementary recommendations for the report “Regarding Basic Policy for Science and Technology” July 29, 2011). The 4th Basic Plan (Draft) was summarized and based on the report and supplementary recommendations that were adopted by the 99th CSTP and decided by the Cabinet on August 19, 2011.

2 Strategic Priority Setting and Comprehensive Promotion in S&T Policy

The minister of state for S&T policy and expert CSTP members created “Action Plans for Science and Technology Priority Measures 2012” (hereinafter referred to as “Action Plan”) in order to reform the government’s whole S&T budget preparation process and identified a “priority measure package.” New efforts aiming at the prioritization of S&T budgets were promoted through budget preparation centering on this Action Plan and through the identification of a priority measures package regarding measures not included in the Action Plan.

(1) Guidelines for Resource Allocation, including the S&T Budget (Decided on July 29, 2011, supplementary recommendation)

The CSTP adopted the “Guidelines for Resource Allocation, including the S&T Budget” which clarifies guidelines for resource allocation, including the budget for the period of the 4th Basic Plan and FY 2012, and provided supplementary recommendations to the Prime Minister and related Cabinet ministers. In this guideline, the process of budget planning (identification of priority measure package) will be introduced by giving the highest priority on resource allocation to measures in the Action Plan as well as by reviewing the existing judgment on priority.

(2) Action Plans for Science and Technology Priority Measures 2012 (July 21, 2011)

The minister of state for S&T policy and expert CSTP members summarized the Action Plan for the 2012 S&T budget preparation in July 2011. It has been decided that the CSTP will prioritize the government’s whole S&T budget by positioning the Action Plan as one of the most important policy-induced tools and by specifying the direction of the policy prior to budget requests.

In the Action Plan, the “target of future society” was set in each of the following four “priority areas,” and the “policy theme” to realize it and the “priority activity” that should be most prioritized to achieve that theme were also specified.

- Reconstruction and revival after the disaster and safety enhancement
- Green innovation
- Life innovation
- Basic research and human resources development

In October 2011, the CSTP in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies, specified measures in the Action Plan that should be most prioritized in the 2012 S&T budget.

(3) Identification of the 2012 S&T Budget Priority Measure Package (December, 2011)

The Minister of State for S&T policy and expert CSTP members identified the priority measure package regarding measures other than the Action Plan measures taken after budget requests, in order to prioritize the S&T budgets, and it reviewed the progress and improvement of the national core technologies in the 3rd Basic Plan and other basic policies with a large budget.

Regarding the identification of the priority measure package, ministries and agencies proposed a series of activities, from research to the achievement of themes, from which the Minister of State for S&T policy and expert CSTP members evaluated its purpose/goal, its approach to achievement, its implementation system, etc., and its identified priority measures. In concrete terms, eight packages were identified; including the “ICT International Cooperation Promotion Research and Development Program” (MIC), the “Establishment of carrier path for young researchers” (MEXT), and the “Enhancement of aerospace industry foundation through R&D such as Advanced Satellite with New system Architecture for Observation” (METI, (Collaboration: MEXT)).

In addition, regarding national core technologies in the 3rd Basic Plan and basic policies with a large budget, the progress achieved up until now and the policies for future improvement were reviewed and evaluated.

(4) Toward Formulation of the S&T Budget (Decided on December 15, 2011, supplementary recommendation)

Toward formulation of an S&T budget that appropriately reflects the resource allocation policies of the S&T budget, the supplementary recommendation “Toward Formulation of the Science and Technology Budget for FY 2012” summarizes important points for budget preparation that were decided and submitted to the Prime Minister and related ministers.

(5) Regarding Views on S&T Activities in Independent Administrative Agencies and National University Corporations (FY 2010)

As Independent Administrative Agencies and national university corporations¹ which are engaged in activities related to S&T receive operating expense subsidies, but there are limits to understanding the uses, affairs and allocations at the time of budget formation. Thus, various indicators representing corporate output were investigated concerning the resource investment status and activities of these corporations.

Based on the above-mentioned investigation, expert Diet members from the CSTP sought opinions regarding the issues that have improved or need to be addressed further.

(6) Execution of R&D Evaluation

1) Preliminary evaluation on R&D of national importance (Decided on December 15, 2011, notification)

For large-scale R&D which will be implemented from 2012, and for the national expenditure, which will be more than 30 billion yen in total, a preliminary evaluation was conducted as R&D project of

¹ Including Inter-University Research Institute Corporation.

national importance, and the ministry having jurisdiction over each project was notified of the evaluation results. This R&D includes 1) the “Establishment of Ocean bottom seismic and tsunami network along the Japan Trench and system development for tsunami warning system (provisional)” (MEXT), 2) the “Development of the ultra low power consumption type optical electronics implementation system technology,” 3) the “Subsidies for high efficiency gas turbine technology demonstration project” and 4) the “Subsidies for Integrated coal gasification fuel cell combined cycle demonstration project. (METI).“

2) Post evaluation of R&D of national importance

Regarding the “Development and shared use of X-RAY free electron lasers (XFEL)” and the “Japanese Antarctic Research Programs” (MEXT), a preliminary evaluation was conducted by the CSTP, and research of the preliminary evaluated parts was completed in 2010; it was then decided to conduct a post evaluation. Then, the expert panel on evaluation investigated and reviewed them.

(7) Pioneering Projects for Acceleration Social Return

Under the leadership of the CSTP, projects are implemented, with multiple ministries and public-private collaboration, to accelerate the return of research outcomes to society (dissemination) through feasibility experiments, while simultaneously conducting interdisciplinary R&D and system reform. More specifically, the following six projects are being executed from FY 2008 until FY 2012.

- Realizing regenerative medicine for lost human physiological functions
- Establishment of an information and telecommunication system useful at the time of disaster while delivering detailed disaster information to every citizen
- Realization of a safe and efficient road transportation system using information and telecommunications technology
- Realization of advanced home care and home nursing for the elderly, the ailing, and individuals with disabilities
- Comprehensive utilization of the biomass resources that contribute to solving environmental and energy problems
- Realization of voice communication technologies to overcome language barriers

The “Realization of voice communication technology which overcomes language barriers” was terminated in the end of FY2011, since the initial goal was almost achieved.

3 Major Points to Be Discussed in Expert Panels

(1) Expert Panel on STI Policy Promotion

Aiming at the steady promotion of policies in compliance with the 4th Basic Plan, the expert panel on STI policy promotion was established in August 2011, in order to investigate and review issues related to the promotion of basic S&T policy, including the securing of an efficient Plan-Do-Check-Action (PDCA) cycle regarding important matters such as 1) “Reconstruction and revival from the earthquake,” 2) “Green innovation,” 3) “Life innovation,” and 4) “Basic research and human resources development” in the 4th Basic Plan. This expert panel will take leadership in the discussion on the promotion of the 4th Basic Plan.

(2) Expert Panel on Evaluation

A preliminary evaluation plan was summarized for large-scale R&D, and will be implemented from 2012, and the national expenditure for which will be more than 30 billion yen in total. Regarding the R&D preliminary evaluation conducted by the CSTP and the evaluated parts completed in 2010, the expert panel on evaluation conducted an investigation and review on the post evaluation. In addition, based on the 4th Basic Plan, a study to further improve and enhance the R&D evaluation system is in progress and it is aimed at responding to the integrated development of STI policies and to the establishment of the PDCA cycle, under the premise of revising the “National Guideline on the Method of Evaluation for Government R&D (October 31, 2008 decision by Prime Minister).”

(3) Expert Panel on Bioethics

In response to recent progress in the life sciences, such as the research on the production of human fertilized embryos using ES cell¹ and iPS cell², investigations and studies on new bioethical issues have been conducted.

¹ Embryonic stem cells. Pluripotent and self-renewal cells that are derived from an early-stage embryo.

² Induced pluripotent stem cells. Pluripotent and self-renewal cells that are derived by inducing specific genes in somatic cells such as skin cells.