

Foreword

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In 2011, the Great East Japan earthquake occurred, causing an unprecedented disaster in Japan. This year, 10 years since, the world is facing a formidable threat in the form of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The government is doing its utmost to deal with this threat. In addition, taking measures to respond to global warming, such as curbing greenhouse gas emissions, is an urgent challenge common to mankind.

It is an urgent task to ensure a safe and secure life for the people against those threats by means of science, technology and innovation. Furthermore, it is necessary to realize well-being for individuals, including not only economic wealth but also mental affluence, by means of science, technology and innovation.

From that perspective, the government has formulated the 6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan and announced realization of "Society 5.0," the future society that Japan aims to create.

As science, technology and innovation form the lifeline for Japan, a resource-poor country, we aim to ensure safety and security and realize well-being for individuals by creating a new future society in the form of Society 5.0 by means of science, technology and innovation.

Part 1 of the current white paper explains the vision of the future society that Japan aims to create and the most advanced activities to realize it. We hope that this white paper will help people understand the current policies on science, technology and innovation promotion.