

Part 2 describes the measures taken to promote S&T (science and technology; the same shall apply hereinafter) in FY 2011 in accordance with the 4th Science and Technology Basic Plan.

Chapter 1 Development of Science and Technology Policy

Section 1 The S&T Basic Plan

The S&T policy in Japan is promoted comprehensively in a planned manner, pursuant to the Basic Plan, which is determined every five years based on the “Science and Technology Basic Law” (Law No. 130, effective in 1995).

The world is now facing various issues on a global-scale, including threats to the environment, energy resources, food security, and the spread of infectious diseases. The GEJE is not only an unprecedented crisis in Japan, but also a global issue.

Each country needs to collaborate and cooperate in dealing with these global issues and Japan, as a developed country in science and technology, should take leadership to address these issues.

Under these circumstances, in the 4th Basic Plan, and after laying out five visions for the future of Japan in the form of major goals at which Japan should aim for through S&T policies, including 1) the “Realization of reconstruction and revival from the Earthquake” aimed at the strong reconstruction and revival of society after the GEJE, 2) the “Promotion of green innovation” focusing on the environment and energy, and 3) the “Promotion of life innovation” focusing on medical care, nursing care, and health. These have been established as the major pillars for the realization of growth and social development in Japan for years to come. Other issues to be addressed with equal importance are laid out as a “Key challenges to the priority issues facing Japan.” Three basic principles for future S&T policies are laid out for achieving these issues; in concrete terms, efforts will be made for a shift from the existing area-focused prioritization to an issue-oriented prioritization, which is a system reform for promoting S&T innovation, and for the strategic development of international activities integrated with the world. In addition, the basic plan proposes coping with critical issues and, as an “inseparable” matter, proposes to promote the “enhancing basic research and human resource development” including 1) drastic enhancements of basic research based on a long-term perspective, 2) the development of human resources, such as young researchers leading future S&T, and 3) the formation of an international-standard research environment and foundation. Furthermore, based on the recognition that “development of policy created together with society” is important, while the public participation in these policies, S&T communication activities, and reformation of establishment of a promotion system for R&D are being promoted, with regard to an increase in investment in R&D, the Basic Plan clearly indicates it is aimed that the ratio of the total amount of public and private investment in R&D against GDP should be 4% or higher, the ratio of the governmental R&D expenditure against GDP should be 1%, and the total amount of the governmental R&D expenditure during the term of the 4th Basic Plan should be around 25 trillion yen. (This is a provisional calculation assuming the ratio of the governmental R&D expenditure against GDP is 1% and the average growth rate of nominal GDP is 2.8% during the term of the 4th Basic Plan.) (Figure 2-1-1)

Figure 2-1-1 / The 4th Science and Technology Basic Plan (2011 to 2015) Overview



Source: Created by Cabinet Office