

Section 2 System Reform to Overcome Critical Problems

1 System Reform to Promote Problem-solving Based R&D

In order to effectively and efficiently promote problem-solving based R&D, it is necessary to comprehensively and systematically promote efforts such as R&D by coordinating and cooperating with each other and by soliciting broad participation from industry, academia and government. Thus, the government aggressively promotes the efforts stated in Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 4.

2 Establishment of a System to Promote R&D Led by the Government

In Japan, regarding the promotion of 1) the critical technology related to national security and 2) the R&D of platform facilities and equipment that are shared by multiple organizations and in multiple areas, a system to conduct R&D shall be established by combining all resources from related research institutions in industry, academia and government, and the government shall take the lead because these activities should be continuously taken over long-term. Thus, a new project shall be created to promote the effective and efficient implementation of such R&D.

Section 3 Strategic Development of International Activities

In order for Japan to further develop S&T while playing a vital role in the international community, it is important to strategically develop its international activities that are integrated with the world and to promote “S&T Diplomacy.”

For this reason, in accordance with the 4th Basic Plan, which includes the “Interim Report on Strategies to Revitalize Japan” (Cabinet decision in August 2011) and the “Strategy for Rebirth of Japan” (Cabinet decision in December 2011), the government is making efforts to contribute to the solution of global-scale issues, to promote strategic international cooperation in advanced S&T fields, to enhance international networks of human resources and research, and to promote improvement of environment in order to support these efforts which strengthen international activities.

1 Promotion of R&D Aimed at Solving Common Issues across Asian

In order for Japan to play a leading role in solving global-scale issues and to maintain a strong position in the world, it is necessary to strategically promote science, technology and innovation (STI) policies through international cooperation. Particularly in Asian countries, there are many issues that Japan can tackle by using its S&T capabilities, such as issues regarding the environment, energy, food, water, disasters and infectious diseases. Japan is required to play a vital role in solving these problems, which are common to Asian countries, and to establish relationships of mutual trust and mutual benefit within this region.

For this purpose, the government is working on the establishment of the “East Asia Science and Innovation Area Initiative” to enhance S&T capabilities in cooperation with Asian countries. The initiative aims to strengthen R&D capabilities and to solve issues shared among East Asian countries such as the