

Recommendation for the Future

STI as a *Bridging Force* to Provide Solutions for Global Issues

Four Actions of Science and Technology Diplomacy to Implement the SDGs

Summary of the Recommendation

I. Introduction

- This recommendation aims to clarify what contributions Japan should make to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through science, technology and innovation (STI) (“STI for SDGs”) in its future international cooperation.
- STI can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs as a deciding factor for making the best use of the limited resources.

II. Four Actions to Mobilize “STI for SDGs”

1. Change through Innovation: Global Future Creation through Society 5.0

- By creating innovation with developing countries with the vision of Society 5.0 in mind, Japan can play a part in the achievement of the SDGs. Under this vision, Japan should contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in carrying out international cooperation.

2. Grasp and Solve: Solution Enabled by Global Data

- Observation data covering from the oceans to space and Japan’s big data system, DIAS, enable solving issues. Cooperative actions taken through international frameworks, including the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), IOC-UNESCO and G7, should be promoted further so that the “treasure trove” of observation data can be utilized globally in order to achieve the SDGs.
- In development cooperation, too, it is important to further promote the provision of solutions for the SDGs based on global data.

3. Link across Sectors, Unite across the Globe

- The key is how to promote social changes through conducting R&D based on local needs and putting into practice and commercializing (scaling up) the achieved results. To this end, it is important to promote co-design, co-production and co-delivery between different sectors. Also important is as follows: cooperation with developed, emerging and developing countries in consideration of their different positions, collaboration with international development banks, and supporting cooperative activities through international organizations/forums (UN, G7, G20, etc.).
- On the diplomatic front, too, it is important to promote co-design and co-delivery with a view to promoting new public-private partnerships at the global level by linking and uniting diverse actors and countries/regions as well as sharing Japan’s experiences such as those under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) with the world.

4. Foster Human Resources for “STI for SDGs”

- Assisting human resources development essential to promoting and disseminating technologies in a manner fortifying the sustainability of developing countries themselves is one of Japan’s fortes. The role of science communicators and ensuring gender balance are also important. Japan should make it a major policy pillar to continue to foster human resources for “STI for SDGs” both at home and abroad.

III. Conclusion: Core Message

- STI can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs as a “bridging force” which unites different sectors, countries and regions, thereby opening a path to create a society for the future generation.
- Japan’s diplomacy should vigorously play a leading role in implementing the SDGs across the world through STI with these four actions as the pillars of its initiative.