

Summary of the Working Group Report

Achievements and Future Directions of Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

1. Background /Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Since its appointment in Sep. 2015, the first-ever S&T Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs has been in action for more than a year and a half.■ Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy has established a working group on “the achievements of the Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and its future direction.”
2. Advisor’s achievements, future directions, and challenges	<p>★(1) <u>Advice and recommendations to foreign policy based on the scientific evidence</u> [Achievements] Advice and recommendations for major diplomatic opportunities; Consultation and advice for each division in the MOFA [Direction/challenges] Taking leadership in addressing global issues, keeping in mind the summit-level review of the SDGs and the TICAD 7 scheduled for 2019 as well as regional and bilateral relations, and in pursuit of strategic diplomacy corresponding to increasingly unforeseeable international situation.</p> <p>★(2) <u>Reinforcing national and international network-building and human resource development</u> [Achievements] Advancement of domestic cooperation through the mechanisms of the Advisory Board and study groups; Establishing networks with science and technology advisors of foreign countries [Direction/challenges] Formulating the global agenda as a result of the dialogues among advisors and leading the global dialogues; Human resource development of young professionals to support the science and technology diplomacy (STD); Collaboration with CSTI /the Science Council of Japan</p> <p>★(3) <u>Active Public Relations</u> [Achievements] Activities at various international forum and through media; Public relations activities of the Japanese STI (“SIP Caravan”) [Direction/challenges] Further use of the embassies and Japan House; Raising domestic awareness of STD and human resource development</p>
3. Efforts of supporting the advisor’s activities	<p>(1) Utilization of information and collaboration with the relevant stakeholders [Achievements] “Mapping” of STD information by country/region; Collaboration with and the utilization of the S&T attachés at overseas missions [Direction/challenges] Enhancing relationship with S&T attachés of foreign missions in Tokyo</p> <p>(2) Human resource development and communications within MOFA [Achievements] “STD seminars” to enhance the S&T literacy of MOFA officials, Individual meetings with Ministers/senior officials [Direction/challenges] Further reflection of the S&T knowledge on specific diplomatic activities</p>
4. On the future of the advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The scientific advisory mechanisms led by the Advisor with the Advisory Board at its core have been progressing effectively and the STD has been evidently making progress. (There has been high expectation and contribution internationally, among domestic S&T community, and within MOFA.)■ The Advisor should be a permanent post to be continuously appointed and the STD should be further promoted (considering the following aspects:) <p>(1) Basic qualifications: capability of mobilizing experts, fairness, personal connections and popularity; high reputation as a scientist; neutrality and objectiveness, international experience</p> <p>(2) Working conditions: to carry out stable and continuous activities as the Advisor, several years’ engagement is necessary.</p> <p>(3) The need for securing sufficient assisting mechanisms: strengthening the basis of the assisting mechanism such as the Advisory Board; possibility of appointing appropriate expert(s) as a proxy or a deputy.</p>
5. Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The establishment of the scientific advisory mechanisms for diplomacy led by the Advisor has created new aspects in Japan’s diplomacy.■ Sending a clear message that Japan intends to contribute to the international community through science and technology would lead to the enhancement of its soft power. <p>➡ The S&T Advisor should continuously promote the STD while placing as the pillars the foregoing three efforts (★).</p>