
The Activities of Prof. Teruo Kishi, Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

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International Science Cooperation Division
Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Prof. Teruo Kishi, who was appointed as Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs by Foreign Minister Kishida in September 2015, supports the activities of the Foreign Minister from the perspective of science and technology, and provides advice on the utilization of science and technology in the planning and coordination of various foreign policies to the Minister and relevant divisions.



Appointment as Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Sep. 24th, 2015)

1. Advice and Recommendations

As the Science and Technology Advisor, Prof. Kishi has provided advice and recommendations to address the common issues of the international community or to lead the large-scale international conferences. Six meetings of the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy (hereinafter, the “Advisory Board”), chaired by the Advisor, were held as fora to discuss the general directions of the Advisor’s activities or the contents of recommendations with attendances of academic experts in various fields of science and technology as the Board’s members.



The First meeting of the Advisory Board (Feb. 3rd, 2016) with attendance of Mr. Seiji Kihara, State Minister for Foreign Affairs



The Second meeting of the Advisory Board (Jul. 13th, 2016) with attendance of Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs



The third meeting of the Advisory Board (Dec. 21st, 2016) with attendance of Mr. Nobuo Kishi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs



The fourth meeting of the Advisory Board (Apr. 27th, 2017) with attendance of Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs



The fifth meeting of the Advisory Board (Jul. 26th, 2017) with attendance of Mr. Kiyoshi Odawara, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs



The sixth meeting of the Advisory Board (Feb. 7th, 2018) with attendance of Mr. Mitsunari Okamoto, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Furthermore, at study groups organized by the Advisor on the four areas of Japan-U.S. cooperation, oceans/the Arctic, health, and international cooperation, involving experts and the relevant government ministries and agencies, the importance of evidence-based policy making was

emphasized.

As a result of these initiatives, the outcome document of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016 stated the importance of international cooperation in the area of medical data, and supported efforts to enhance ocean observation for the science-based management of marine resources.

The Advisor also submitted a recommendation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs toward the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI). This recommendation comprised the following two pillars: Improving Africa's science and technology level through human resource development, and applying research and development results to overall society. During the Conference in Kenya, the Advisor attended related events, visited local science and technology facilities, and exchanged views with concerned parties.



Submitting the recommendation toward TICAD VI
(Aug. 15th, 2016)



Prof. Kishi visiting the Jomo Kenyatta University of
Agriculture and Technology (TICAD VI, Aug. 25th, 2016)



JICA-organised event
“The Roles and Challenges of Science and
Technology Cooperation in Africa”
Key note speech (TICAD VI, Aug. 26th, 2016)

In 2017, study group meetings, chaired by the Advisory Board member Dr. Michiharu Nakamura, were held in March and April under the Advisory Board, while the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) moved into the implementation phase in the international society. In the meetings, knowledge from various sectors/organizations was integrated for deliberation to clarify what contributions Japan should make to the achievement of the SDGs through science, technology and innovation (STI) (“STI for SDGs”) in Japan’s future international cooperation.

On May 12th, the Advisor presented the “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)” to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Fumio Kishida. This Recommendation, based on the discussions in the study group, was finalized by the Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Advisor.

The essence of this Recommendation was reflected in the Japan’s public relations activities in the 2nd UN STI forum and the related events in May, and the Foreign Minister Kishida’s presentation in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July.



Submitting the Recommendation toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (May 12th , 2017)

On March 7th, 2018, the Advisor submitted the recommendation on the science and technology for the Arctic, Achieving Innovative Solutions for Arctic Challenges Science and technology for the Arctic, Japan’s role through five “i”s; “International”, “Interdisciplinary” “Inclusive”, “Ingenuity” and “Innovation”, which was produced under the initiative of the Advisory Board member, Mr.

Yoshifumi Yasuoka (Arctic Study Group Leader), to Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, State Minister.



Submitting the recommendation towards utilization of science and technology for the Arctic
(March 7th, 2018)

2. Building networks

Prof. Kishi has endeavored to formulate his networks through establishing, in Japan, the Science and Technology Diplomacy Advisory Network with the Advisory Board as its core, and attending various international conferences abroad for exchanges of opinions on the role of Advisors and ways of applying scientific knowledge to foreign policies along with Science and Technology Advisors from other countries including the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.



Foreign Ministries Science and Technology Advisors Network (FMSTAN) Meeting (Vienna, Oct. 17th, 2016)

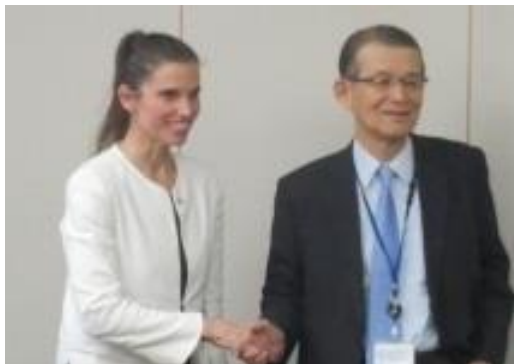


The Meeting with Prof. Gluckman, Science and Technology Advisor of New Zealand (Boston, Feb. 15th–20th, 2017)

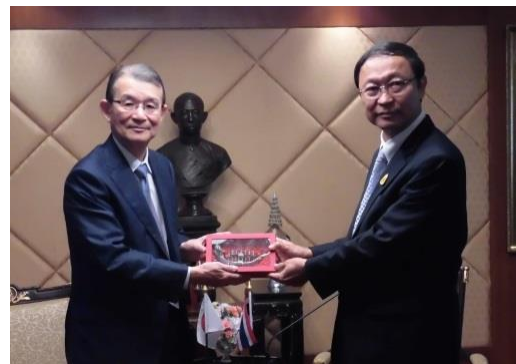


Foreign Ministries Science and Technology Advisors Network Meeting
(Talloires, France, Sep. 16th, 2017)

Furthermore, Prof. Kishi held meetings with high-level policy-makers, the Science and Technology Advisors in each government or Minister of Science and Technology.



Meeting with the Honourable Kristy Duncan,
Minister of Science of Canada (May 18th, 2016)



Meeting with Dr. Pichet, Minister of Science and
Technology of Thailand (Bangkok, Sep. 22nd, 2016)



Visiting CERN, the European Organization for
Nuclear Research (Geneva, Sep. 14th, 2017)

3. Public Relations Activities

In addition, Prof. Kishi also initiated a project to publicize science, technology and innovation (“SIP Caravan”) through cooperation with the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Europe and Asia¹, with the aim of enhancing the public relations about Japan’s prominent scientific and technological strength.



Seminar at the Japanese Embassy in the United Kingdom (London, Oct. 21st, 2016)



Meeting with Indonesian stakeholders in the fields of science and technology (Jakarta, Mar. 2nd, 2017)



SIP Caravan at University of Twente (Netherlands, Sep. 12th, 2017)



SIP Caravan in Malaysia (Malaysia, Jan. 16th, 2018)

¹ Project (known as “SIP Caravan”) to introduce the SIP (Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program), which is a new type of Japanese national project for science, technology and innovation, spearheaded by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI) as it exercises its headquarters function to accomplish its role in leading science, technology and innovation beyond the framework of government ministries and traditional disciplines by facilitating coordination among government, industry and academic entities under 11 themes, in order to lay the groundwork for future international cooperation, as well as for the international dissemination of Japan’s research and development output, through cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomatic missions overseas). SIP Caravan was conducted in Germany (June, 2016), Austria, France and the United Kingdom (October, 2016), Netherlands (September, 2017), Malaysia (January, 2018), and Japan House, São Paulo (March, 2018).

Moreover, he has been active in disseminating information about Japan's initiatives in science and technology diplomacy widely at various fora in Japan and abroad, including the Symposium on Science and Technology Diplomacy held in Tokyo in May 24th, 2016.



Participation in the Symposium, sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation, “Science and Technology Diplomacy and U.S.-Japan Alliance” (Washington D.C. Feb. 10th, 2016)



The Symposium on Science and Technology Diplomacy (May 24th, 2016)



ASEAN STI Forum (Bangkok, Sep. 23rd, 2016)

The consolidation and penetration of scientific knowledge within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also of great importance. In this regard, various initiatives have been put in place including seminars about science and technology for the ministry officials to improve scientific literacy, and the lectures for the young ministry officials as part of their training course.



The first S&T seminar for MOFA officials
(Jul. 20th, 2016)



Lecture at groups 2 and 3 of the MOFA's training course
organized by the Foreign Service Training Institute
(Apr. 18th, 2017)

※ Affiliations/titles mentioned above are ones at that time.

References: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Bluebook 2017 pp.189-190.

Pictures: Ministry of Foreign Affairs' homepage.