

Plenary Talk 1



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Japanese Policy on Science & Technology

Japan's science and technology policies are now promoted under the Third Science and Technology Basic Plan from 2006 to 2010, which was approved by the Cabinet in March 2006. Basic stances for implementation of the plan are (1) "science and technology should be supported by the public and also should return benefits to society" and (2) "fostering human resources and creating competitive environment". As for research subjects, with allowing the diversity in basic research, 62 "strategic science and technology priorities" (including 5 "key technologies of national importance") were selected from policy mission-oriented R&D. As for research human resources, the Third Basic Plan includes reforming human resource development systems to develop, attract, and maintain each of young researchers, female researchers, foreign researchers, and excellent senior researchers. Additionally, in order to make Japan an innovation-driven country, Japan's government formulated a long-term strategy initiative "Innovation 25" with a view toward year 2025. That describes guidelines for integrating and promoting "Innovation in science and technology," "Innovation in social systems" and "Innovation in human resources".

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Mr. Kenji Oeda was born in 1951 in Fukuoka. He graduated from Graduate School of Science, Kyushu University in March 1980 and got ph. D. in Biology. He had been a JSPS-supported Researcher for two years from April 1980 before entering Sumitomo Chemical Engineering Co. Ltd in April 1983, working as a researcher in the Institute of Biological Engineering. From October 1988 he had been a visiting researcher at Rockefeller University in U. S. A., for two years. In October 1990 he had been promoted to a Senior Researcher, the Institute of Biological Engineering, Sumitomo Chemical Engineering Co. Ltd. In February 2001 he moved to the Institute of Biological and Environmental Science, Sumitomo Chemicals, Co. Ltd., as a Chief Researcher and in July 2002 he became Group Manager of Molecular Biology Group, until he was assigned to the present position in Cabinet Office in January 2007.