Science and Technology in Society (STS) *forum*
7th Annual Meeting

October 5, 2010 (Embargo until 12:30)

Kyoto, Japan

STATEMENT

1. The 7th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society *forum* took place from October 3 to 5, with the participation of approximately 1,000 leading scientists, policymakers, business leaders and media leaders from 104 countries, regions and international organizations, a significant increase from last year. For next year, we look forward to having greater participation of women, young scientists and entrepreneurs.

2. In the 21st century, the capacity of the Earth to support human activities has become finite, reminding us that we are part of nature and that we should live in harmony with nature, as we cope with population growth and reduce the inequities between people. Sustainability has become crucially important. We need to adopt appropriate national policies and to strengthen the ability of the international community to handle global issues.

3. It is regrettable that no consensus was reached on establishing a new Post-Kyoto Protocol framework at COP 15 in 2009. It is urgent and vital to establish an effective international framework to address climate change that includes all countries of the world and provides for both mitigation and adaptation.

4. We reaffirmed the need to advance science and technology diplomacy, including increased use of science and technology resources in addition to financial resources, for the benefit of developing countries. Funding agencies should finance international science collaborations. All of that, and the promotion of entrepreneurs in starting small and medium enterprises, will have a great impact on capacity building in developing countries.

5. Energy is essential to human society, but greater efficiency and a multi-path approach are needed for the provision of clean energy. We agreed that nuclear power, capable of producing energy on a mass scale, is a crucially important option for sustainability under strict conditions of nuclear safeguards, safety and security, including the management of waste streams. To ensure the peaceful use of nuclear power, it is vital to take decisive steps to prevent nuclear proliferation.

6. With more than half the world's population already living in cities, rapid urbanization is raising transportation, sanitation and other challenges. We must rise to these challenges and promote more efficient and humane cities through the use of science and technology and urban planning.

7. To ease food supply and demand issues caused by the world's growing population, it is important to support agricultural R&D, plant more resilient crops, and implement better farming and distribution systems. GMOs are also expected to contribute to solve this issue.

8. Global health problems remain one of the most important issues of humankind. Technologies such as genomic and regenerative medicine must be fully explored for a new healthcare system. Progress in preventive medicine should be accelerated.

9. A new international system for responding to infectious diseases is needed for better collaboration between industry and the public sector, including the WHO. Health service capacity in the developing countries must be strengthened.

10. The aging of the population poses special challenges and opportunities, not just in providing geriatric care or social safety nets, but also in rethinking the social context of the participation of the elderly as productive citizens.

11. The future Internet, with the semantic Web and personalized mobile access for all, opens enormous opportunities provided that public concerns over the security, privacy and use of personal data are addressed. Creating an effective ICT infrastructure is critical for redressing disparities among and within nations in access to education, healthcare and business opportunities.

12. Collaboration among academia, industry, philanthropy and government contributes to maintaining economic and social vitality. Universities and research institutions should provide basic research, advanced results of R&D stimulating innovation, as well as science and engineering education. Universities are the hub that links the humanities and science, promoting critical thinking and preparing students to be responsible global citizens. Supporting education and research and local entrepreneurs creating spin-offs are essential for capacity-building in developing countries.

13. We welcome the conclusions of the adjunct session on Regional Climate Change to implement knowledge action networks to assist those who are at risk in adapting to the devastating impacts of global climate change.

14. We hope that fruitful discussions at the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 will result in effective action toward preserving biodiversity.

15. We noted the importance of fair and objective reporting by the media on the lights and shadows of science and technology with regard to public policy issues. It is very important to stimulate continuing exchanges between scientists and the media.

16. Science and technology are the key to achieving sustainability and development simultaneously. For the benefit of future generations, we must maintain and strengthen investment in science and technology despite unfavorable global economic and fiscal conditions.

17. To solve the serious problems of humankind, science and technology will not be sufficient without significant changes in individual and social behavior to promote much more efficient use of materials and energy. Public education will be needed to change the prevalent mindset about such issues.

18. The STS *forum* has grown to be a movement for global leaders in various fields. We look forward to meeting here again to contribute to building a better future for humankind. We agreed to hold the **8th Annual Meeting of the STS *forum* in Kyoto from October 2 to 4, 2011**.