

The 7th Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference Joint Statement on Energy and Environment

Energy and environmental issues are taken as a common challenge to humanity. The dimensions of the challenge are social, technological, economic, and political as well as global. The issues are particularly serious for Asia-Pacific region where dynamic economic development is proceeding. We, as the members of the SCA, hereby pledge to further reinforce our partnership and collaboration to promote interdisciplinary research on energy and environment, and thus, contribute to the enhancement of the public awareness and political will which tackle these global issues.

(1) Continuous commitment with a long term perspective

The academia, the industry, and the government are urged to play their respective role for our society. Scientists are requested to acquire more academic evidence, while the private sector is required to reinforce its effort to put such knowledge into practical use. The government should take initiative in promoting strategic research and development. It is important for the academia to create an interdisciplinary field of science. Continuous effort is also desired to improve intellectual infrastructures, including human resource development as well as statistical and global monitoring systems.

(2) Technological and social innovations

To cope with energy and environmental issues, two major tasks are required: continuous development of individual technologies and the integration of such technologies. Technological development should be managed in a flexible manner to reflect regional differences and temporal changes of social needs. In addition to technological innovation, social innovation is inevitable for the solution of energy and environmental issues. Environmental harmony must be taken into consideration in the development of social infrastructures. Also, educational and publicity activities should be encouraged to review and reform societies' lifestyle.

(3) Equitable allocation of efforts

Since the energy and environmental issues involve all countries, an international consensus should be established to build a global framework, under which efforts shall be allocated in an equitable manner among countries and generations for achieving sustainable development. Developing countries are expected to consume more energy in accordance with their economic growth and improvement of living standards. Developed countries are encouraged to transfer their technologies to developing countries in order to help them "leapfrog" to modern energy technologies and take advantage of such technologies to ensure both economic growth and efficient use of energy.