ISC Midterm Meeting in Beijing (1/3)

Overview

- The ISC is one of the world's largest international scientific networks, bringing together national academies and research councils as well as international scientific unions and associations across the natural and social sciences.
- The ISC holds an ordinary session of its General Assembly every four years. This Midterm Meeting was held midway between ordinary sessions. Alongside the various meetings, the presidency was handed over from Sir Peter Gluckman to Robbert Dijkgraaf.
- Approximately 300 representatives of national and regional academies, international scientific unions, and other organizations attended. **KATO Kazuto, President of the Science Council of Japan**, participated and spoke actively on gender equality and support for basic research in low- and middle-income countries. He also worked to strengthen cooperation through exchanges with national academies and other organizations.

Programme

Date	22(Thu)-23(Fri) October 2026
Venue	China National Convention Center (Beijing, China)

Thursday, 22 Oct, 9:00-18:00

(in the morning)
- ISC Members Forums, including Category 2 Members Forum

(in the afternoon)
ISC Members' Meeting
- Opening, formalities and welcome
- Report from the ISC Secretariat
- Members Forums reports
- Reflections from the President
- Wrapping up

Friday, 23 Oct, 9:00-12:30

Plenary Meeting
- Looking forward: the incoming President's vision for the coming four years
- Discussion with Members
- Handover from outgoing to incoming President

Meeting website
https://council.science/mmm-beijing-membership/





ISC Midterm Meeting in Beijing (2/3)

Thursday, October 22, 9:00–10:45 Category 2 Members Forum (national academies and others)

- Category 2 Members discussed their expectations of the ISC, the benefits of ISC membership, and the forms of support and collaboration needed in the future.
- During the discussion on gender equality, President Kato stated that the Science Council of Japan would continue its own efforts and support the ISC's work in this area.



Meeting in progress



President Kato speaking



Group photo

Friday, 23 October 9:00-12:00 : Incoming President Dijkgraaf's vision and discussion with Members

- In his address, incoming ISC President Dijkgraaf emphasized that international scientific cooperation is essential to addressing global challenges and that the ISC has a vital role to play in advancing science diplomacy and providing scientific advice for policy.
- During the dialogue session with Members, President Kato asked about the ISC's future priorities and organizational strengths and highlighted the importance of supporting basic research in low- and middle-income countries.
  President Dijkgraaf responded that the ISC should focus on promoting scientific cooperation across national and disciplinary boundaries, defending academic freedom, and contributing scientific expertise to global challenges. He added that the ISC should further strengthen its role as an international platform connecting science with policy and society.



Meeting in progress



President Kato asking a question



President Dijkgraaf responding

ISC Midterm Meeting in Beijing （3/3）

Exchange with Leaders from various countries



With Robbert Dijkgraaf, incoming ISC President



With Ratemo Michieka, President of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences, and Françoise Baylis, ISC Governing Board member



With Michael Promentilla, President of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines, and Yongguan Zhu, ISC Vice-President for Membership



With Catherine Jami, ISC Governing Board member, and Odile Eisenstein of the French Academy of Sciences



With Shekhar C. Mande, President of the Indian National Science Academy, and fellow officers



With Olubukola O. Babalola, Vice-President of TWAS and ISC Governing Board member