



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Office of the President

March 9, 2023

Prof. Kajita Takaaki
President
Science Council of Japan
7-22-34 Roppongi, Minato-ku
Tokyo 106-8555
Japan

Dear Professor Kajita,

Thank you so much for the lovely hospitality at the meeting of the G7 academies. Our time was well spent, and it was particularly important to be able to gather in person once again.

I understand that there is a proposal within the government of Japan to change the process by which the members of the SCJ are selected. There are nearly as many models for providing authoritative science advice to government as there are governments, and no one model fits all circumstances. Different advisory structures reflect the needs of the government and the culture of the nation. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for foreign science advisory organizations to interfere in an internal Japanese discussion.

However, we are all agreed that independence of the scientific advice from political interference is crucial for sound scientific input to public policy. For that reason, I hope that any proposed changes to the structure and operations of the SCJ will result in either similar or enhanced independence in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia McNutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marcia McNutt
President
National Academy of Sciences