

Closing Session

Dr. Ayao Tsuge: The most distinctive feature of this conference was that we put two different paradigms on one table: national innovation systems and a global innovation ecosystem. In Session 1, we identified the national innovation systems, learning that the national innovation ecosystem is very different from country to country but also recognizing the common challenges to education, basic research and creating social and economic values. It is a big achievement that we tried to show the common concept of a global innovation ecosystem together with the national innovation system. Yet, we have to accept the fact that we have not yet reached a clear, common concept of the global innovation ecosystem yet. Today, we had three parallel sessions addressing the capitalization of science and technology to socioeconomic value, human capital, and how to create innovation based on science and technology. In the afternoon, we had a very fruitful, tough wrap-up panel discussion, struggling to identify the structure of the key elements of innovation ecosystems. The question is how to collaborate to promote these two types of innovation for sustainable growth. While the issues are too tough for us to conclude clear answers, we have seen the way to some solutions. The 3-D schematic underscores the viewpoint of changing “ego” system to “eco” system. Even if the concept is not clear, I hope that all participants will take all possible roles to achieve a global innovation ecosystem.

The Government of Japan has published its third basic plan for science and technology together with a comprehensive strategy for creating innovation. The basic stance of the third basic plan is that science and technology should be supported by the public and create benefits for society and the world.

Finally, I would like to highlight three points from our two days of communication: learning from others; uniting each national innovation ecosystem from a global viewpoint and not forgetting the people who are outside the innovation ecosystem at this moment; and the need to extend our viewpoint to the humanities and even to the spiritual aspect of human beings, not being limited to materialism.

Prof. Yoko Ishikura: When we started this conference yesterday morning, I said there are at least two objectives of this conference. The first objective was for us to have a better idea of what the "global innovation ecosystem" looks like by the end of the two-day conference. I am delighted to see that we have even gone beyond our original intention by identifying and discussing, for example, the multi-layered model. I'm still not very clear as to what this expanded model is all about, but it is great to reach the stage beyond our original expectations.

The second objective that I mentioned yesterday morning was “action orientation”. I am delighted that we have established a good platform for future collaboration for knowledge and database, to exchange ideas, share best practices, and form the foundation for the regional network of innovation research.. Our journey to the global innovation ecosystem has just begun I hope we will continue our journey together, for the better globe.

Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa: Looking at the 6.5 billion population of the world, this is not compatible with our earth’s resources. We have science and technology at our disposal but we live in a fragile world. Concerning innovation, we have received a lot of great input and we will input your views into a final statement. From there, let’s consider the next step. We want to keep engaged so we can pursue our social responsibility as scientists. All of you have shared your knowledge, experience, and wisdom so we will continue. We must invest in the next generation and open the window for future careers in science and technology.