

**SCIENCE  
COUNCIL  
OF  
JAPAN**



# An organization representing Japan's scientist communities - Science Council of Japan

The Science Council of Japan (SCJ), established in 1949, is a Japanese scientific academy. It consists of scientists across all disciplines, i.e., humanities and social sciences, life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, and has 210 Council Members and about 2,000 Associate Members. Its mission is to contribute to the peaceful reconstruction of Japan and the welfare of human society, as well as to academic progress, in partnership with academic circles all over the world. It is established within the Cabinet Office as a “special organization” that carries out its duties independently under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister.

## Message from the President



President of the Science Council of Japan for the 26th Term

**MITSUISHI Mamoru**  
Professor, Dr.Eng.

The Science Council of Japan (SCJ) has the four major roles. These are to directly propose the opinions of Japanese scientists to the government and society, to deepen understanding of science through dialogue with civil society, to contribute to the advancement of science in local communities and the functional enhancement of academic societies, and to promote international academic exchange as a representative academy of Japan. Since its establishment in 1949, SCJ has contributed to scientific progress in collaboration with academies and academic circles around the world.

The world is now facing a lot of important challenges, such as climate change, pandemics caused by infectious diseases, disorder in cyberspace, and global conflicts. Looking at Japan, there are a large number of issues that must be tackled with the utmost care for future generations, including large-scale disasters, population decline and national security. Since things are intricately intertwined, many of these issues cannot be solved by science and technology alone or by the government alone, and it is becoming increasingly important for both parties to work closely together across boundaries. In the international community, which advocates globalism but is also showing its flaws, and in the modern society, which changes at a dizzying pace, the role of national academies is becoming more and more significant.

Under such circumstances in Japan and overseas, SCJ, as a national academy of Japan, has set out an "Action Plan for the Science Council during the 26th Term(October 2023 – September 2026) " regarding the issues to be especially addressed during this period, and has actively worked to make timely and speedy recommendations, strengthen international activities through the establishment of an "International Advisory Board," exchange opinions with industry, and enhance its information dissemination function, such as the Chairman's video message.

SCJ will engage in various activities not only to advance science based on a mid- to long-term perspective, but also to contribute to the urgent resolution of pressing social issues.

## Major Roles of the Science Council of Japan

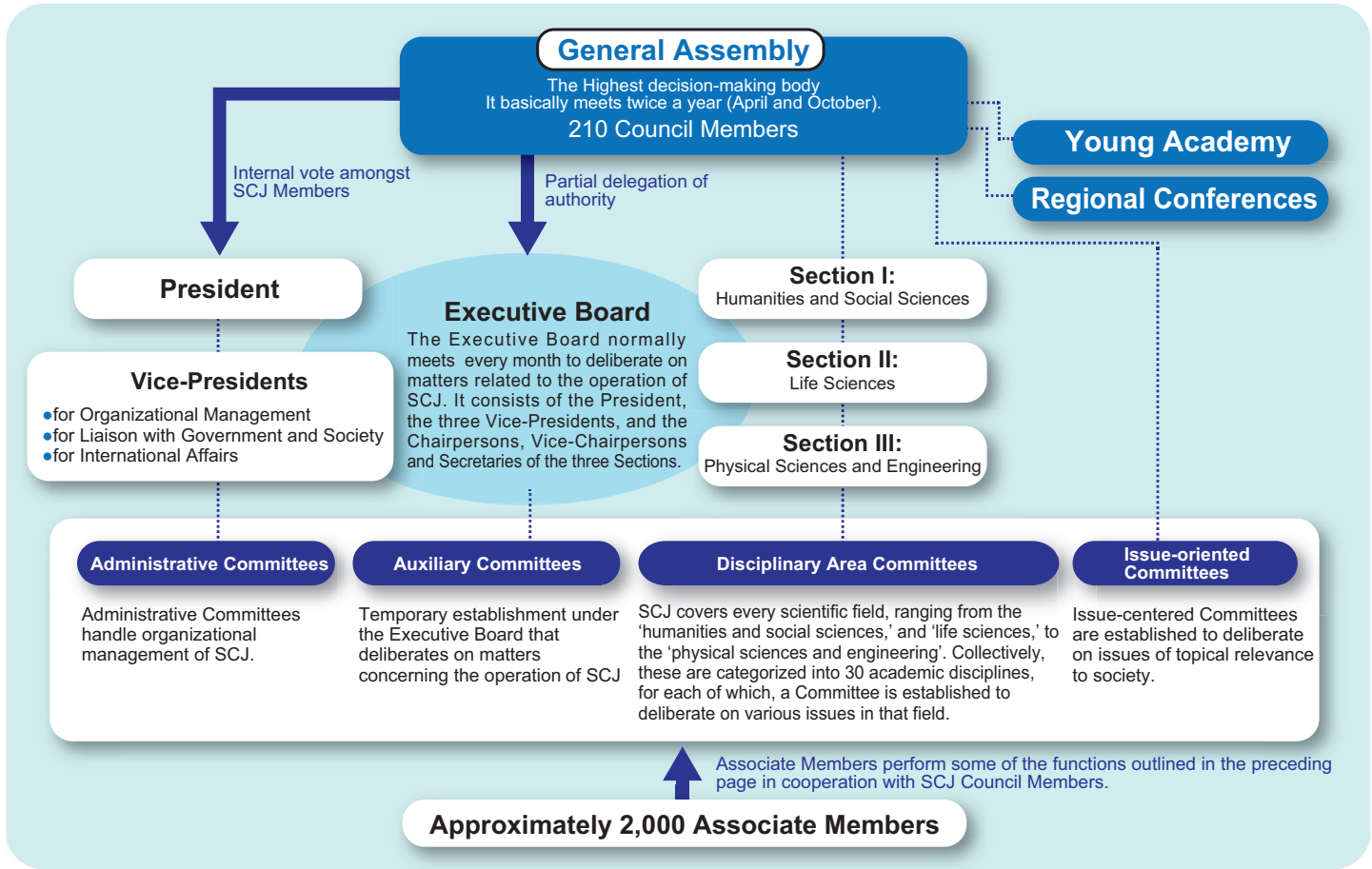
<p><b>To promote international academic exchange as the leading science academy of Japan</b></p> <p>SCJ, as a representative Japanese academy for the international community, conducts various international activities, such as collaboration with academic societies of various countries and regions as well as hosting international symposiums, and plays a role as a trusted international partner. It also works on organizing important international congresses to be held in Japan.</p>	<p><b>To express opinions of Japanese scientists towards government and society</b></p> <p>SCJ provides the government and civil society with expert, reliable opinions and advice representing scientists from a bottom-up approach and with neutral perspective.</p>	<p><b>To open up the future of science through dialogue with civil society</b></p> <p>SCJ organizes many different programs to deepen citizens' understanding of science, and promote opinion exchange between scientists and civil society by organizing academic forums and symposiums.</p>	<p><b>To enhance scientific activities in academia and society</b></p> <p>Among the important issues for SCJ is to realize sustainable scientific development in various regions of Japan. SCJ has been undertaking a variety of projects aimed at scientific enhancement in academic circles and civil society, in close partnership with academic associations. SCJ will further strengthen its function to address this issue.</p>
--	--	---	---

## Organization



SCJ consists of 210 Council Members (quota) and approximately 2,000 Associate Members, elected as representatives of approximately 910 thousand scientists nationwide who are engaged in outstanding research, or have made great achievements.

SCJ conducts its activities from a universal perspective and a comprehensive, multifaceted viewpoint. This takes advantage of the fact that its members are scientists from a broad range of professional disciplines, including the humanities and social sciences, life sciences, physical sciences and engineering.



## Vice-Presidents and Chairpersons

Vice-President for Organizational Management: SAIGUSA Nobuko	Vice-President for Liaison with Government and Society: ISO Hiroyasu	Vice-President for International Affairs: HIBIYA Junko	Chairperson Section I YOSHIDA Aya	Chairperson Section II KANDA Reiko	Chairperson Section III OKI Taikan

### Young Academy of Japan (YAJ)

The Young Academy of Japan (YAJ) is composed of researchers under the age of 45 who are engaged in cutting-edge research in their respective disciplines, such as the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

YAJ is a unique organization within SCJ in that researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds work as one organization, and conducts a wide range of activities from the viewpoint of young researchers who will play a pivotal role in academic research in the future.

YAJ promotes international exchange between young scientists through participation in the Global Young Academy (GYA). It also shares information with researchers around the world, and addresses issues facing not only Japan but also the world from the perspective of young scientists.



# Promotion of international collaborations as the leading science academy of Japan



## G-Science Academies meeting / Science 20

The G-Science Academies meeting is an academic bodies launched in 2005. It aims to enable scientific academies from the G7 countries and other countries and regions to make policy recommendations to their respective leaders from the perspective of a scientist.

Prior to the G7 Summit every year, the Academies compile a joint statement for scientific policy recommendations on important global issues, and submit it to national leaders. In Japan, the President of the Science Council of Japan delivers the statement to the Prime Minister.

In 2017, Science 20 (S20) was launched with the aim of enabling scientific academies of G20 countries to jointly propose scientific policy recommendations to the G20 Summit. In S20, scientific academies of G20 countries, including SCJ, compile a joint statement every year, and submit it to the leader or Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy of the G20 Summit host country.

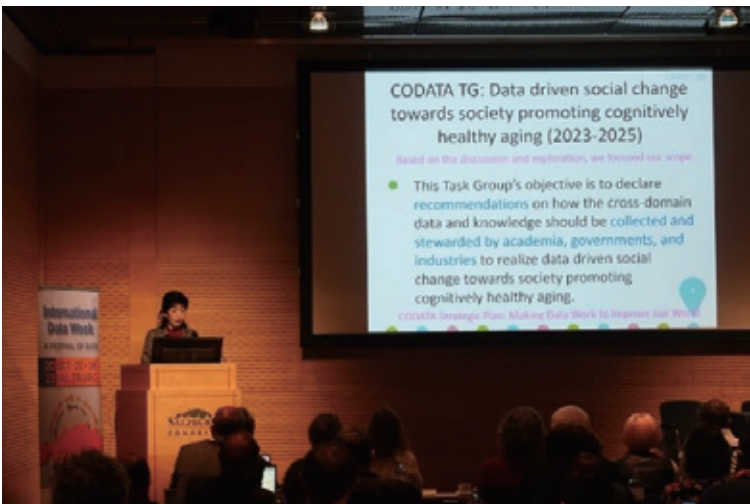


Representatives of academies of countries participating in the G-Science Academies meeting 2024 (S7+SSH7 Academies meeting) in April 2024 (photographed at the National Academy of Lincei in Italy)



Representatives of academies of countries participating in Science 20 Brasil 2024, in July of that year (photo courtesy of Marcos André Pinto/ABC (Brazilian Academy of Sciences))

## Membership, contributions, and representative dispatch to international academic organizations



OTAKE Mihoko, Designated Associate Member and delegate (title at the time of dispatch) presented a task group proposal at the CODATA General Assembly and International Data Week held in Salzburg, Austria (October 2023)

As Japan's representative organization (national academy), SCJ is a member of leading international academic organizations, including the International Science Council (ISC) and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), and actively participate in their activities.

SCJ also dispatches delegates to international conferences held by those international academic organizations, to contribute to academic advancement by strengthening partnerships with academic societies throughout the world, participating in the management of international academic organizations, grasping scientific trends, and facilitating communication, information gathering and opinion exchange regarding academic research.

These continuous activities for international academic organizations have led to results such as acquisition of a naming right for a new element 113 (named "Nihonium"), and approval for registration of the Chiba Section (Chibanian) to the GSSP (Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point).

## Holding international conferences and symposiums

### International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability

Since 2003, SCJ has held an annual international symposium, "International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability", to discuss solutions for global issues, and has compiled recommendations and other outcomes.



Speaker at the International Conference on Science and Technology for a Sustainable Society 2024 (February 2025, photographed at SCJ's auditorium)

### Co-hosted international conferences

As a co-organizer of international conferences hosted by academic research organizations in Japan, which are recognized as particularly important, high-priority and cross-disciplinary gatherings, with the oral approval of the Cabinet, SCJ contributes to the advancement of academic research and the promotion of exchanges among researchers. Additionally, public lectures for the general public are held during these conferences to share research outcomes with society.

Imperial family members have also attended some of these international conferences.



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress attending the 22nd World Congress of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) held in July 2023

## Science Council of Asia (SCA)

The Science Council of Asia (SCA) was established in 2000 at the initiative of SCJ, with its Secretariat located in SCJ, for the purpose of sharing information on the current state of science among Asian countries and regions, facilitating cooperation in a wide range of scientific fields in Asia, and gaining deeper mutual understanding and trust among Asian scientists.

- Members: 31 organizations across 18 Asian countries and regions
- Secretariat: Science Council of Japan
- Each year member countries take turns holding the General Assembly and other meetings. SCJ provides the hosting academy with financial aid to cover the cost such as expert invitation.



The 23rd SCA Conference (Bangladesh, November 2024)

## International expansion of Future Earth

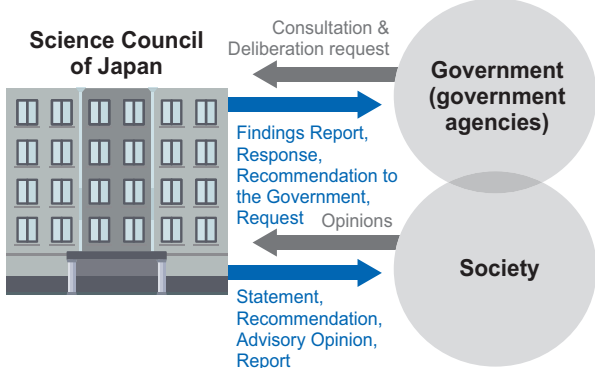
Future Earth is a global collaborative research platform for a sustainable global environment, and currently has an international secretariat consisting of coordinating hubs in 9 countries and regions (Canada, France, Japan, Sweden, the United States, China, Taipei, South Asia, and Africa). Since its foundation, SCJ has been playing an integral part in the international expansion of Future Earth as a major supporting organization of the secretariat hub in Japan.



# Expression of opinions by Japanese scientists towards government and society

SCJ provides policymakers and civil society with professional and credible views and advice as scientists in the light of future prospects. Recommendations, etc., provided in the past have been reflected in various policies, such as the establishment of research institutions which play an important social role.

In the 25th term, meaning the period of three years from October 2020 to September 2023, SCJ issued one “Recommendation to the Government,” strongly urging the government to implement certain measures, 3 “Statements” publicly expressed opinions, 3 “Responses” to requests for deliberation from the government, 8 “Recommendations” proposing suggestions to the government and society from a broad, comprehensive perspective, 37 “Advisory Opinions” presenting expert proposals and diverse opinions, and 27 “Reports” summarizing the deliberation results from subcommittees, etc. In addition, SCJ provided the President’s comments and the Executive Board’s statements in response to the issues at in a timely manner.



## Recent key activities

In recent years, various changes have been taking place at an unprecedented speed in societies both domestically and internationally. In Japan, we face issues including the demographic shrinkage of younger generation, the advent of the super-aged society, the urban primacy in the distribution of population and public resources, and the changes in Japan's international standing in economy and academia. On a global scale, the climate change, the large-scale spread of infectious diseases, geopolitical changes, and the rapid development of information technologies including artificial intelligence are progressing with unforeseen impacts beyond our past experience. There are concerns about unemployment, widening economic and digital divides, and the deterioration of environment and health in the future. This has led to growing movements to pursue the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are set to be reached by 2030 and the well-being of each individual as a fundamental value that humans seek, and the world is beginning to identify issues that need to be addressed. In this situation, interest in and expectations for academic and scientific research are growing, and the importance of collaboration between academia and government is being heightened. In light of this, SCJ has published various proposals, as follows:

### Recommendation: ‘Future Academic Advancement Initiative (2023)’

This recommendation consists of 19 ‘Grand Visions’ for academic advancement looking ahead to the next 20 to 30 years and ‘mid- to long-term scientific research strategies’ which are necessary from the perspective of achieving these ‘Grand Visions’.



### Recommendation: ‘Recommendation for the 7th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan’ (2024)

This recommendation consists of the following key pillars:

1. Establishing systems and initiatives to enable inclusive science, technology, and innovation that effectively address urgent challenges such as large-scale infectious diseases, climate change, and the rapidly aging, low-birthrate society. Additionally, it aims to respond to the transformative impact of advancements in data science, including the development of generative AI.
2. Supporting a broad and diverse range of research fields, including fundamental and traditional disciplines, in addition to research aimed at solving pressing issues. This will enhance research capabilities through the continuous accumulation of knowledge and technological advancements.
3. Promoting the accumulation and open access to knowledge and data as public goods, fostering new scientific and technological innovations through the further advancement of data science.
4. Developing highly skilled professionals with diverse career paths across all fields and strengthening mechanisms that enable these individuals to apply their expertise effectively in various sectors and locations.



## History of the Science Council of Japan

The first national academy in Japan was the Tokyo Academy founded in 1879. Subsequently, the National Research Council of Japan was established as an organization sending its national delegates to the International Research Council, which was established in 1919 due to changes in the international situation caused by World War I. This is the origin of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ). After the end of World War II, SCJ was established on January 20, 1949 as a reorganization of the National Research Council of Japan for the purpose of "promoting and enhancing science and ensuring science is reflected and disseminated in government administration, industry and people's everyday lives as the organization representing the scientists of Japan towards domestic and international society" (Act on the Science Council of Japan).

# Activities for the promotion of science in academia and society

## Holding academic forums, symposiums, etc.

SCJ holds academic forums and science cafes in order to return scientific and academic research outcomes to citizens, deepen understanding of science, and exchange opinions with citizens and many other stakeholders.

In addition, Disciplinary Area Committees and other committees hold around 100 symposiums and other events annually to tackle urgent issues based on scientific knowledge. In these activities, SCJ members actively promote exchange of opinions with young generations including junior and senior high school students.



Public Symposium; “One Health--Thinking Together with the Generation that Will Create the Future”

## Regional Conferences and Regional Science Council



Academic seminar hosted by the Kyushu-Okinawa Regional Conference: “Ecosystem and Cultural Diversity Unique to the Amami Archipelago as a World Natural Heritage Site--Amami's Treasures Handed Down to the Next Generation”

SCJ strives to build a network of scientists for the purpose of fostering communication between local scientists in Japan, and promoting the advancement of science in local communities. Specifically, it organizes Regional Conferences by dividing the nation into seven blocks, and they hold science seminars and scientific meetings, which are open to citizens, with themes related to issues faced by local communities.

SCJ holds a meeting of the Regional Science Council as part of its efforts at the local level. The President and other members of the Executive Board, which is the governing body of SCJ, actually go to each region to solve regional issues and further promote understanding of science through exchange of opinions with scientists and leaders in various fields, as well as through dialogue with the younger generation.

## Enhancing the functions of academic societies

Academic research organizations are comprised of experts in various fields, and support research activities in Japan beyond the boundaries of universities and other research institutions as forums for presentation of research results, exchange of knowledge, and communication and coordination between researchers and with other academic research organizations both in Japan and abroad. SCJ acts as a bridge between society and researchers, and disseminates information by collecting information and opinions from academic societies, and deliberating countermeasures regarding the issues that extend to the general researcher community. In doing so, it promotes activities that are conducive to enhancing the functions of academic societies.

## Partnership with academic societies

Among academic research organizations and federations of academic research organizations, SCJ designates approximately 2,200 organizations that have requested to cooperate with the activities of SCJ, which have been approved by the Executive Board as “Cooperative Academic Research Organizations of SCJ”, and forms close partnerships with them.



## Science Council of Japan

[Contact us]

Secretariat, Science Council of Japan

7-22-34 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-8555

Japan

TEL: +81-3-3403-3793

URL <https://www.scj.go.jp/en/index.html>

