

August 24, 2006

Q and A for Working group (3) on Society and Policy-making:

Role(s) of S&T in the development of society and policy-making.

- The modern role(s) of S&T must be reviewed comprehensively until certain public consensus is reached. It should be remembered that the society is the principal sponsor of S&T. One of the most challenging targets will be the elucidation of the matter (materials)-energy balance of the earth.

The role of society in successful development of S&T.

- Scientists and policy-makers must identify the real needs of the society at each given time and place. The individual societies should have many divergent requests ranging from local to global issues. Some of them are conflicting with each other. For certain subjects, adjustment may be required on a global scale.

Successful ways of involving **society in policy-making with regard to S&T**.

- E.g., the society should spare more resources (money and manpower) on learning the principle/ mechanism of the earth in terms of the materials-energy circulation, instead of accelerating the conventional developments. Such a change in the public attitude will be reflected in the policy.

Experiences and practices on **how to sensitize society and raise societal awareness** on the importance of domestic S&T.

- E.g., Science-motivated volunteers may be invited to take part in the new movement of S&T “total study of the earth”. The limitation arising from the availability of professional scientists may be complemented by their participation. Professional scientists may provide a guide on how to proceed.

Roles of the UN system, in particular UNESCO and UNU.

- Lead the new movement in S&T in a variety of ways, and establish a world-wide network.

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