

Japan / the Science and Technology Basic Law

(Unofficial Translation)

(Law No. 130 of 1995. Effective on November 15, 1995)

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Chapter 1 General Provisions

(Objective)

Article 1

The objective of this law is to achieve a higher standard of science and technology (hereinafter referred to as "S&T"), to contribute to the development of the economy and society in Japan and to the improvement of the welfare of the nation, as well as to contribute to the progress of S&T in the world and the sustainable development of human society, through prescribing the basic policy requirements for the promotion of S&T (excluding those relevant only to the humanities in this law) and comprehensively and systematically promoting policies for the progress of S&T.

(Guidelines for Promotion of S&T)

Article 2

1 S&T shall be actively promoted in harmony with human life, society and nature with the recognition that the creativity of researchers and technicians (hereinafter referred to as "Researchers") can be fully developed, in consideration of the fact that S&T provides the basis for the future development of Japan and human society and that the accumulation of knowledge on S&T is the intellectual asset common for all mankind.

2 In the promotion of S&T, the improvement of balanced ability of research and development (hereinafter referred to as "R&D") in various fields, harmonized development among basic research, applied research and development and organic cooperation of national research institutes, universities (including graduate schools in this law.) and private sector etc. should be considered, and in consideration of the fact that the mutual connection between natural science and the humanities is essential for the progress of S&T, attention should be paid to the balanced development of both.

(Responsibility of the Nation)

Article 3

The nation is responsible for formulating and implementing comprehensive policies with regard to the promotion of S&T.

(Responsibility of Local Governments)

Article 4

The local governments are responsible for formulating and implementing policies with regard to the promotion of S&T corresponding to national policies and policies of their own initiatives in accordance with the characteristics of their jurisdictions.

(Necessary Consideration to be given by the Nation and Local Governments in Formulating Policies)

Article 5

In formulating and implementing policies with regard to the promotion of S&T, the nation and local governments shall pay attention to the importance of their roles in promoting basic research and consider that basic research has the following characteristics:

- (i) It could bring about discovery and elucidation of new phenomena and make the creation of novel technologies possible;
- (ii) Forecasting its results at the outset of research is difficult; and
- (iii) The results are not necessarily directly connected to practical applications.

(Necessary Consideration in Policies with regard to universities)

Article 6

In formulating and implementing policies related to universities and Inter-university Research Institutes (hereinafter referred to as "Universities"), with regard to the promotion of S&T, the local and national governments shall make an effort to activate research in Universities, respect the autonomy of Researchers and consider the characteristics of research in Universities.

(Legislative and other Measures)

Article 7

The Government shall take the appropriate legislative, fiscal, financial and other necessary measures required to implement the policies with regard to the promotion of S&T.

(Annual Report)

Article 8

The Government shall annually submit a report on the policy measures implemented with regard to the promotion of S&T to the National Diet.

Chapter 2 S&T Basic Plan

Article 9

1 The Government shall establish a basic plan for the promotion of S&T (hereinafter referred to as "Basic Plan") in order to comprehensively and systematically implement policies with regard to the promotion of S&T.

2 The Basic Plan shall stipulate the following matters:

- (i) The comprehensive plans for the promotion of R&D (the term "R&D" means basic, applied and developmental researches and includes technology development in this law.);
- (ii) The policies taken comprehensively and systematically by the Government with regard to the installation of R&D facilities and equipment (hereinafter referred to as "Facilities"), the promotion of information intensive R&D activities and the maintenance of the necessary environment for the promotion of R&D; and
- (iii) Other matters required to promote S&T.

3 The Government shall consult the Council for Science and Technology Policy on the Basic Plan prior to formulation.

4 The Government shall consider the progress of S&T and the effect of policies taken by the Government with regard to the promotion of S&T, examine the Basic Plan properly, and revise it if necessary. The preceding paragraph shall apply in the case of revisions.

5 When formulating the Basic Plan in accordance with paragraph 1 above or revising it in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the Government shall publish the summary of the Basic Plan.

6 In order to secure necessary funds for the implementation of the Basic Plan, every fiscal year the Government shall take the necessary measures for the smooth implementation of the Basic Plan such as including the necessary fund in the budget within the limits of national financial status.

Chapter 3 Promotion of R&D

(Balanced Promotion of various levels of R&D)

Article 10

The nation should implement necessary policy measures for the balanced promotion of various levels of R&D in comprehensive fields as well as take necessary measures for the planning and implementation of R&D in the specific fields of S&T where the nation considers further promotion important.

(Securing Researchers)

Article 11

1 The nation should implement necessary policy measures to improve education and research in graduate schools, to secure and train Researchers and to improve their quality in order to promote R&D corresponding to the progress of S&T.

2 The nation should implement necessary policy measures to improve the occupational conditions of Researchers in order for their positions to be attractive commensurate with their importance.

3 In consideration of the fact that R&D supporting personnel are essential for the smooth promotion of R&D, the nation should implement necessary policy measures corresponding to the preceding two paragraphs in order to secure and train them and to improve their quality of service along with their occupational conditions.

(Improvement of Facilities)

Article 12

1 The nation should implement necessary policy measures to improve research facilities of R&D institutions (the term "R&D institutions" is defined as national research institutes and institutions for R&D in Universities, private sector and so on in this law) in order to promote R&D corresponding to the progress of S&T.

2 The nation should implement necessary policy measures to upgrade supporting R&D functions such as supplying research materials smoothly in order to promote R&D effectively.

(Promotion of Information Intensive R&D)

Article 13

The nation should take necessary policies to promote information intensive R&D activities such as the advancement of information processing in S&T, the maintenance of databases on S&T and the construction of information networks among R&D institutions in order to promote R&D effectively.

(Promotion of Exchange in R&D)

Article 14

The nation should implement necessary policy measures for the promotion of R&D to enhance various exchanges such as the exchange of Researchers, joint R&D of R&D institutions and joint use of Facilities of R&D institutions, in consideration of the fact that promoting the fusion of various Researchers' knowledge through exchanges between R&D institutions and/or Researchers is the source of new R&D progress and that this exchange is essential for the effective promotion of R&D.

(Effective use of R&D funds)

Article 15

The nation should implement necessary policy measures to use R&D funds effectively corresponding to the progress of R&D in order to promote R&D smoothly.

(Making public the results of R&D)

Article 16

The nation should implement necessary policy measures to diffuse the results of R&D, such as the publication of the results of R&D and the provision of the information on R&D and measures to promote appropriate practical applications of them.

(Support of efforts by private enterprises)

Article 17

In consideration of the importance of the role played by the private sector in S&T activities in Japan, the nation should implement necessary policy measures to promote private sector R&D by encouraging initiatives in the private sector.

Chapter 4 Promotion of International Exchange

Article 18

The nation should implement necessary policy measures to promote international exchange such as international exchange of Researchers, international joint R&D and international distribution of information on S&T, in order to play an active role in international society, as well as to contribute to further progress in S&T in Japan, by intensely promoting international S&T activities.

Chapter 5 Promotion of Learning on S&T

Article 19

The nation should implement necessary policy measures to promote the learning of S&T in school and social education, to enlighten the people in S&T and to disseminate knowledge on S&T, so that all Japanese people including the young can deepen their understanding of and interest in S&T with every opportunity.

Supplementary Provision

This law shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation.

This English language version of this law is a translation of an original document produced in Japanese. Any questions that may arise about the interpretation of the law shall be resolved with regard to the original Japanese document.