

«New growth strategy» of Japan: Goals and Objectives



Dr. Hiroshi Komiyama – the president of University of Tokyo from April 2005 to March 2009. His major research fields are Chemical engineering, Environmental engineering, functional material science and CVD reaction engineering. Dr. Komiyama is member of the World Knowledge Dialogue Scientific Board.

What are the peculiarities of the innovation system in Japan? Where did they come from?

The general idea of innovation is a technical improvement in Japan. Because it is thought that the technical excellence is the reason for a high industrial competitiveness of Japan. Therefore we think that the breakthrough in the next age is invented by high technology.

What are the latest changes to innovation policy in Japan? What do think about the given changes?

The Japanese government decided to take «New growth strategy» on June 18. A new growth strategy specifies two innovation strategies for the field that is able to grow up by making the best use of the strong points of our country, that is to say high technologies, which are nanotechnology, ma-

terials science, micro engineering, are strong points of Japan. One is an environment energetic strategy by the green innovation. The photovoltaic generation and the fuel cell, etc. are typical examples.

Another one is the healthcare strategy by life innovation. Healthy long life may reduce healthcare costs, but what I mean by life innovation is not only that. Participating in social activities can maintain senior citizens healthy in their mentality, so that the technological innovation for this matter is very significant.

As the target until 2020, 'Creation of new market of 50 trillion yen in the field of environment', 'New employment in the environmental arena of 1.4 million people', 'Green house gas mitigation of 1.3 billion tons or more in the world utilizing the technology of a private sectors in Japan' and 'New market about 50 trillion yen and 2.84 million people of new employment corresponds to the demand for service related to the medical treatment, nursing, and health.

However, a concrete implementation plan for achievement of the strategies is being discussed by the government.

What are the latest technological developments or breakthroughs in your area? How did Mitsubishi Research Institute contribute to this development?

Mitsubishi Research Institute is doing a policy research on the green engineering, the energy technology, and the material and the nanotechnology technology, etc. and the research on the technology strategy. We contribute to the policy decision on the government and the enterprise as a think-tank in Japan. Mitsubishi Research Institute is doing making and a technological assessment of the technology and technological road map for the government.

To your mind, what researches and developments may assure a technological breakthrough in the

nearest future? Do you think that such a breakthrough will happen?

There are three problems; a social load of the global warming issue, the aged society and domestic demand shortages in Japan. Among them, the aging of the population and the shortfall in demand are the most serious problems. They are fetters of the recovery of Japanese economy.

If these three difficult problems are solved in advance of the world, and it is possible to present it as a social model, Japan becomes a problem solution advanced country. Mitsubishi Research Institute is now advocating «Platinum society plan» under this recognition.