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**An Introduction and Description of Japan's Comprehensive STI Strategy**

To follow up the Comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Strategy established under the Abe Administration in JFY2013, Prime Minister Abe announced a new plan for allocation of the STI budget for JFY2014.

The new strategy has three pillars. Two of them are the cross-ministerial and high-risk & high-impact programs known as SIP and IMPACT, respectively, both led by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI). The third pillar is the STI Budget Strategy Committee that was set up in 2013 for CSTI to preliminarily review all the STI budget requests individually made by the STI ministries before the STI ministries submit their requests to the Ministry of Finance. This enables CSTI to check duplication of efforts at an early stage of the STI budget-making process and comprehensively view the Japanese government R&D efforts.

The JFY2014 priority STI areas of Energy System; Long and Healthy Life; Next-generation Infrastructure; New Industry Creation by Use of Local Area Resources; and Recovery from the Great North-east Earthquake (3-11) are the same as in JFY2013.

In order to promote industrial competitiveness in the above five priority areas, the new strategy encourages such cross-disciplinary technologies as Information Communication Technology; Nanotechnology; and Environmental Technology to be further strengthened.

The strategy recognizes that holding the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games in Japan is a good opportunity for Japan to promote industrialization of technologies by 2020 and demonstrate the new technologies at the internationally visible event.

Also emphasized in the strategy is the importance of fostering an environment for innovation that facilitates the nurturing and kick-off of commercialization. To realize this, the strategy identifies three approaches: establishment of innovation hub by industry-university-government collaboration; creation of an environment for young and women researchers, small- and medium-sized companies, and ventures to be competitive; and reform of universities, state-run research institutions, and competitive funding systems.

Lastly, the strategy reiterates the importance of CSTI's role as the "control tower" of Japan's STI policy. In concrete terms, the strategy expects CSTI to lead the STI budgets, improve the environment to create innovation, invest in innovative research, and realize innovation by reforming state-run research institutions.

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References to previous NSF Tokyo reports:

JFY2013 Comprehensive STI Strategy: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/ia/ise/tokyo/reports/trm/rm13-03.pdf>

SIP Program: [http://www.nsf.gov/od/ia/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014\\_0605.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/od/ia/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014_0605.pdf)

IMPACT Program: [http://www.nsf.gov/od/ia/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014\\_0704.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/od/ia/ise/tokyo/articles/Weekly%20Wire-2014_0704.pdf)