

1. Introduction

The UN Sustainable Development Report 2023 provides very important directions for STI. One is the need for governments and development agencies to support innovation at the emergence stage, and the other is the importance of building partnerships to strengthen the interface between science, policy, and society. I fully agree with these directions.

In appropriately responding to the unprecedented compound global crises and aiming to achieve human security and the SDGs, we may first need to make an adjustment in our mind-set, keeping in mind these directions indicated in the UN Sustainable Development Report 2023. In other words, moving from “STI for development” to “STI in development”.

“STI for development” seems to be a concept for researchers involved in STI to promote research and technology that contributes to development. Today, this concept should rather be further evolved into “STI in development”, so that constructive discussions can take place not only among researchers but also with practitioners in development agencies. The discussions should focus on how to promote research that addresses development issues and how to utilize the results of such research in the field.

2. Answers to the Guiding Questions

I would like to answer the three Guiding Questions for this session.

As for an incentive to increase the level of funding for research and innovation related to the SDGs and to enhance their effectiveness, development agencies and research funding agencies should collaborate more closely. For example, since 2008, JICA has been working with research funding agencies in Japan such as JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) and AMED (Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development) to conduct the SATREPS (Science and Technology Research Partnerships for Sustainable Development) program, which integrates the process from international joint research to social implementation.

With regard to capacity building, there are two aspects. First, I would like to emphasize that developing countries themselves need to develop their own capacity for innovation. I believe it is important to provide consistent support to universities and research institutions in developing countries. Such support includes investment in human resource development, networking with international researchers, development of research infrastructure, and funding both international joint research and social implementation. Second, researchers in developed countries also need to be more aware of development issues. They are then expected to generate knowledge that leads directly to social impact. In this sense, capacity building is needed in both developed and developing countries.

One of the challenges for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) would be to make it more open. In addition to UN specialized agencies and national research institutes, it should first ensure greater participation of multilateral development banks, bilateral development agencies and research funding agencies. We should also secure the participation of more private companies, leveraging the convening power and catalytic functions of these institutions.

3. Conclusion

To conclude, I would like to make the following points.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's ODA. As the implementing agency of ODA, JICA is further strengthening its partnerships with universities, research institutes, and research funding agencies in both developing and developed countries, with SDG 17 in mind, and promoting international brain circulation to cultivate human resources that will create innovations for the next generation.

In other words, JICA hopes to promote "co-creation," in which various entities bring their strengths together under a common goal and work together to create solutions through dialogue and collaboration.

Thank you for your attention.

END