Closing Session

We had two keynote addresses being in line with this year's theme, from the Japan side, the sponsor of the Seminar, and from the Taiwan side, who was our co-host of this year. The Japan side introduced science and technology (S&T) development support measures conducted regionally by our government, centered on financial aid programs for Japan Science and Technology Agency. Reasonable, detailed and specific examples were given, so that regional S&T development measures at government level could be systematically understood. Meanwhile, Dr. Meng, Director General of the Taiwan Science and Technology Information Center (STIC), the cosponsor of this Seminar, expanded on the innovation theory he has developed. He clarified the essential qualities of innovation in developed countries, including Japan, touched on future modalities in Taiwan and other countries and regions in Asia, and made a number of suggestions of great benefit.

Then, presentations on the particulars envisioned by the Planning & Steering Committee were held in each session.

(1) Policy & role of government: Theoretical researches on current conditions were presented, with defining innovation concepts as the main theme. Cutting-edge S&T policies taken by the government were also introduced.
(2) Local development & global networking: Various forms of regional development as well as their background were described.
(3) Regional perspectives: Real-world examples of goals were given, from links between Silicon Valley in the US and Asian countries to future plan.

Further description is omitted, as the specifics of each session have already been described in detail. However, we believe that the keynote addresses, as well as the presentations and Q&A, proceeded substantially with a group session scope, along the lines prepared by the Planning & Steering Committee and according to the abstracts.

We listened to opinions on how future seminars should be conducted in the last half of the closing session. These are summarized below.

(1) This seminar series should be continued in the coming years.
(2) The details on such a substantive seminar should not be only for those at this venue. We need to disseminate the results not only through reports, but by making full use of the Internet website and other means.
(3) Various opinions were presented on the means of disseminating the results. There were some participants who had never seen our announcements on the JST and JISTEC websites. Based on the above, it would be useful to have printed material for government VIPs so that the announcements using our existing release methods are made known to them, and where printed material cannot be prepared, the attendees could download the reports from the website, and distribute them to personnel. Many other ideas were put forth.
(4) Some wanted the list of target countries for the Asia Pacific Science and Technology Management Seminar to grow. Specifically, these countries would be Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. The Planning & Steering Committee needs to study the potential of these three countries and other countries from now.
(5) There were only a few proposals on seminar goals and themes this year. In particular, there were no proposals on which country the seminar should be held in next year. However, regarding these matters, it is necessary to organize the schedule as usual as the participants and liaison organizations wish. Last year, in particular, a clear response to the request made to Australia was late in arriving, so towards the end of the year, the seminar had to be held in Japan at short notice. Moreover, the seminar was held in Taiwan this year, so China, which the host organization made great efforts to invite, did not attend.
(6) Various definitions were used for "innovation," and some participants felt that an agreement on the concept of the word should have been reached at the beginning of the conference. While such feeling is understandable, it was thought some common concept had already been established through debates at OECD, etc. Although the 3-layered regional structure and clusters mentioned before were described simply in the introduction, the Planning & Steering Committee would like definitions of the terminologies to be prepared in advance.