

## **Project Team to Promote Energy Strategy to Draw up Proposal by March 2006**

On November 9, the basic policy expert study group of the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP), part of the Cabinet Office, held its 14th meeting to discuss the draft report of national government's third five-year basic plan for science and technology (FY2006-2010), as well as the guidelines for running the project teams to promote strategies for each area of R&D. The project team for energy R&D will hold its first meeting in November, and plans to draw up its strategy plans by the end of March 2006.

The draft report of the next basic plan for science and technology is gradually nearing completion, outlining the government's goals for R&D investment in the medium-range future. A total of eight areas have been identified. The four areas of R&D currently positioned in the second five-year plan as priority areas of promotion – life sciences, information and telecommunications, the environment, and nanotechnology and materials – will continue to be pursued in the new plan, with four additional fields to be promoted: namely, energy, manufacturing technology, social infrastructure, and frontier science.

In order to determine the major R&D topics to be studied in each of the eight areas mentioned above, as well as to outline the policy goals of the selected topics and the path to achieve them – along with determining the means to promote them, with duties divided between the public and private sectors – separate project teams are to be established to discuss strategies for promoting each R&D field, with deliberations to begin shortly. Whenever necessary, the project teams will set up working groups for more specialized discussions, with opinions solicited from experts from the outside.

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