Technology for Sustainability, for the purpose of putting forward suggestions and proposals from an academic standpoint.” The Science Council of Japan hosted the third Conference of the World’s InterAcademy Panel, which focused on the theme of Transition to Sustainability, in 2003. It hosted the International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability, which concentrated on the theme of Energy and Sustainability Science. The Science Council of Japan established and participates in the Science Council of Asia (SCA), which is composed of representatives of scientific academies and governmental organizations from across Asia. The SCA seeks to secure a consensus for sustainable development for the Asian region.

Prof. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, President of the Science Council of Japan, points out that the Science Council of Japan has been actively involved in the search for solutions to the problems facing humankind, and that this is the result of the high expectations held of the academic community. “Since the end of the Cold War, the world has been engulfed with such global problems as the environment, population growth and the north-south divide,” he says. “No one country can hope to solve these problems alone, and conferences like the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, were important in establishing a forum at which delegations from across the globe could gather for earnest and meaningful discussions. There has been a big increase in the number of such forums, accompanied by growing calls for the scientific community to put forward ideas regarding global issues. This is because the scientific community is able to propose policies which are based on the research and understanding of the world’s scientific community. Other important organizations include the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP), established in 1995, and the InterAcademy Council (IAC), which was established in 2000 and which makes recommendations to the United Nations and the World Bank. The Science Council of Japan is a member country of the IAP Executive Committee and of the IAC Board, and is making a number of significant international contributions including collaboratively writing the reports “Investing in a Better Future” and “Realizing the Promise and Potential of African Agriculture,” which the IAC has submitted to the United Nations.

The Science Council of Japan, which was originally founded in 1949, is presently undergoing a major revamp. “In April this year the National Diet passed the Science Council of Japan Reform Bill. One of the main advantages this has brought about is a new process for selecting members,” explains Kurokawa. “Since 1983 members consisted of those who were recommended by registered member groups, and this led to misgivings and controversy about the process. The new reforms mean that from now on new members will be selected directly by the existing 210 members based on their individual merits.” Other changes include organizing the process of seven academic fields into just three categories: social sciences, life sciences and engineering sciences. The council consists of 210 members, who are elected to represent the 760,000-strong Japanese scientific community. Its findings are announced on a number of occasions, including three main events: “Urban Materials and Energy Life,” and “Urban Sustainability and Safety.” The participants at the conference will be leading scientists from Japan and abroad.

The major metropolises of the Asian region are currently faced with serious problems such as pollution, slums and infectious diseases, yet they continue to expand unabated. A major conference to be held in Japan from November 10 to 12 will focus on the myriad issues confronting Asia’s megacities, and search for possible solutions. This is the International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability 2004 — Asian Megacities and Global Sustainability; it will be divided into five separate sessions, including sessions entitled “Urban Materials and Energy Life,” and “Urban Sustainability and Safety.” The participants at the conference will be leading scientists from Japan and abroad.

THE SCIENCE COUNCIL OF JAPAN IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD.

The conference will be organized by the Science Council of Japan, a Japanese academic institution which brings together scholars and academics from fields including the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences to discuss a wide range of issues. The council consists of 210 members, who are elected to represent the 760,000-strong Japanese scientific community. Its findings are announced on a number of occasions, including three main events: “Urban Materials and Energy Life,” and “Urban Sustainability and Safety.” The participants at the conference will be leading scientists from Japan and abroad.

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