

# Policy issues on the social dimension of engineering and technologies



## Professor Yuko Harayama

Chair of Management of Technology, Technology Policy,  
Department of Management Science & Technology, Graduate School of Engineering

Born in Tokyo in 1951. Received her Ph.D in Education Science and a Ph.D in Economics, both from the University of Geneva. Worked as Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Geneva, and then as a fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade & Industry of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University since April 2002. Also served as a member of the Council for Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet Office.

<http://www.most.tohoku.ac.jp/~policy/>

Professor Yuko Harayama is responsible for the chair of Technology Policy. Her teaching and research cover policy issues on science and technology, technology management, innovation, and regional clusters.

Professor Harayama's research focuses on technology policies, considering them as an interface between technologies and society, examining their economic effects and social contribution, and makes a systematic analysis of various related problems in modern society. Furthermore, it explores ideas and methods for producing solutions to them from a scientific point of view.

Professor Harayama points out the necessity of the science of science, technology, and innovation policy (Sci SIP). "What effects will science and technology policies decided by the government produce? Will they be really useful in society? If they do not produce the expected effects, what should be done to correct the results? It is essential for scientists to propose policies based on data and analysis, taking a step forward beyond armchair discussion," she says. It is necessary to examine the outcome of, and issues in, policies, always in the pursuit of social values of such policies.

This is why, it is important to develop engineers and researchers who are able to not only develop new technologies but also take into consideration the effects on society and environment in designing and operating social systems. It is essential to look at things not only from a perspective of one's own field but also to keep in mind a multi-disciplinary approach.

Professor Harayama thinks that it is extremely important to find and nurture torchbearers in the next generation to lead science and technology policies in the best direction. "We are now making arrangements to discover such torchbearers. We have set up some small networks across university and field boundaries, in cooperation with business enterprises," she says.



Panel discussion in the GIS symposium (Mr. Evans to the right and Mr. Touffut to the left)



Prof. Harayama exchanging greetings with the Deputy Secretary General before the OECD workshop (hosted in Japan with her as chairperson).



Planned and organized a workshop to consider how to deal with an aging society with the Deputy Mayor (on the right) of Oulu City, Finland. (Prof. Harayama was a Japanese counterpart in the planning.)



Opening of "Summer Session for the Next Generation"

### My favorite

Prof. Harayama finds pleasure in visiting art galleries and museums. She enjoys new discoveries there. She says, "It is the time when I am facing an artist through his or her art works that I feel most composed." The picture is an art work by Yuzo Saeki at the entrance of an apartment house in Paris. She discovered that it was the entrance of the apartment owned by a person who had taken care of her like her parent when she was in Paris for the first time. She was extremely moved by it.

