GLOBAL SCIENCE FORUM: SCIENCE (ADVICE) AND SOCIETY

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OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Global Science Forum

Working Party of CSTP
New Mandate, 2015-2019
Focus on key science policy issues:

- Strengthening the science enterprise
- International cooperation in science
- Science & global **societal** challenges
- Science for policy, science in **society**

Strengthening the science enterprise

Better policies to optimise:

- **Research environments and infrastructures**
- **Research quality and openness**
- **Research assessment, measurement and incentives**
- **Training and careers**

International cooperation

Identify and address policy needs for:

- **new emerging areas**
- **new methods or facilities**

Global Societal challenges:

- **Inter-disciplinary approaches**
- **Tran-disciplinary approaches**

Science for policy and society

- Science advisory processes
- Public communication and engagement in science
- Co-design with stake-holders
- Citizen science

Current GSF projects

- **Science advice for Policy-making**
- Collaborative research network on Temperate Agriculture
- Research ethics and new forms of data for social science research
- Research infrastructure assessment
- Strategic scoping exercise
- [Astro-particle Physics Forum]

Science advice

- Overview of current landscape and structures across countries
- Analysis of different phases of advisory process
- Potential legal liability of advisors
- Specific challenges related to trans-national crises
- The role of civil society

Science advice in/with Society

- **Fukushima crisis raised serious issues about science advice , communication and trust in science**
- **SCJ code of conduct for scientists, 2013:**

  Science and Society

  -Emphasise need to provide policy-makers with appropriate and effective scientific advice

3 Golden rules for science advice

1. Be clear about (institutional and individual) remits, roles and responsibilities
2. Involve the relevant actors at the relevant stage of the process
3. Ensure that the advice is sound, unbiased and legitimate

Advisory roles and responsibilities

Need to be clear about:

- **Advisory versus decision-making roles**
- **Who communicates to public, when and how?**
- **Legal responsibilities and potential liabilities**

Involving the relevant actors

- Scientists, policy-makers and other key stakeholders to frame questions
- Transparent process and procedures for declaring conflicts of interest
- Include all relevant scientific disciplines
- Include non-scientific experts and/or stakeholders as necessary
- Effective procedures for international exchange/cooperation

Ensuring credibility and acceptability

- Based on best available science
- Assess and communicate uncertainties (probabilities)
- Independent of political (or other vested interest group) interests
- Produced and used transparently
- Different international perspectives accommodated

Science advice and society

- Scientific rigour and legitimacy is paramount
- Different scientific views are the norm and need to be accommodated
- Uncertainty is not a weakness
- Scientists are not the only experts on many issues
- Science advice is only one input to policy
- Public trust in science and the scientific process can be fragile
- Timely, open and responsible communication is critical

The new ‘e-era’ norms

- Honesty
- Openness
- Transparency
- Accountability

Respect the norms and twitter is an ally not an enemy