

# Science Shapes Our Future

## Abstract

Louis Pasteur stated, “Chance favors only a prepared mind.” Serendipitous events reorienting the pathway of science often occur through the actions of dedicated individuals with unique cultural and educational backgrounds, original sense of values, and firm principles. Science is the fountainhead of human knowledge and possesses an indispensable cultural value.

Science-based technologies and the innovations derived from them are the foundation of the civilized society in which we live today. All scientific endeavors begin with observations, or facts. However, the ultimate goal of research activity is to convert accumulated knowledge to something with new technological, economic, or social value. Innovation is an essential aspect to assure the national competitiveness and also the continued survival of humanity.

As my half-century of research reflects, the act of turning facts into values is often facilitated by dialogues. Thus, to acquire the necessary combined wisdom, scientists must have ongoing conversations with the societies they serve, as well as with their counterparts in other nations.

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