



# **How to link the Parliament (Diet) and Academia**

**EPTA Directors' Meeting**

**April 29, 2021**

**Engineering Academy of Japan (EAJ)**

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# Engineering Academy of Japan (EAJ)



## Voluntarily, Independently, and Internationally

- Established in 1987, Incorporated in 1998
- Elected as a CAETS (International **C**ouncil of **A**cademies of **E**ngineering and **T**echnological **S**ciences) member in 1990
- EAJ is a non-profit, non-governmental organization to contribute to the advancement of engineering and technological sciences, whose members are in leading positions with outstanding achievements and extensive knowledge in engineering and related fields.
- 832 Members, 43 Foreign associates  
53 Supporting corporate members (As of March 1, 2021)

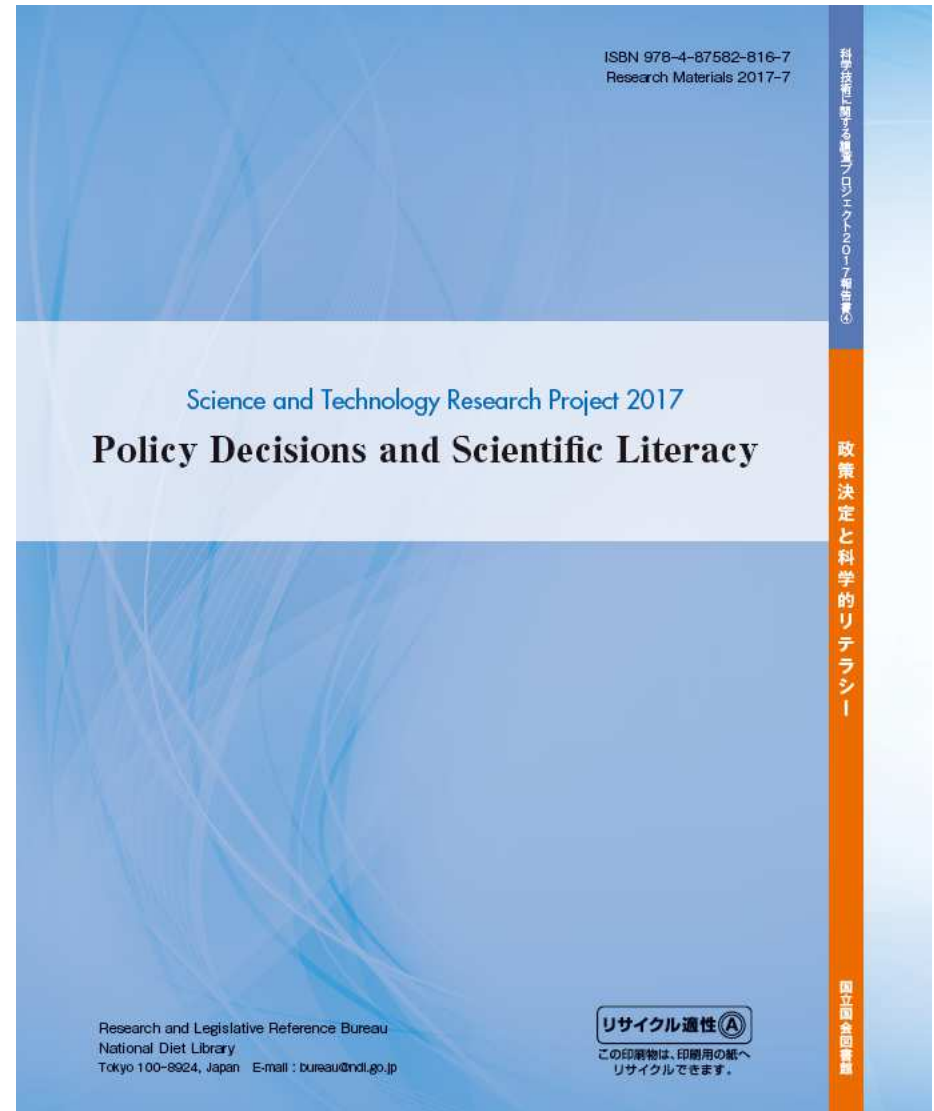
In FY2017, in the commissioned survey "Policy Decisions and Scientific Literacy" from the **National Diet Library**, EAJ introduced,

at overseas academies,

a) There is an example of creating a **platform** (place) by an academy, where any expert engineer and members of the Parliament join for the development of network and communication.

b) In policy proposals, **multiple options** are presented.

and so on.

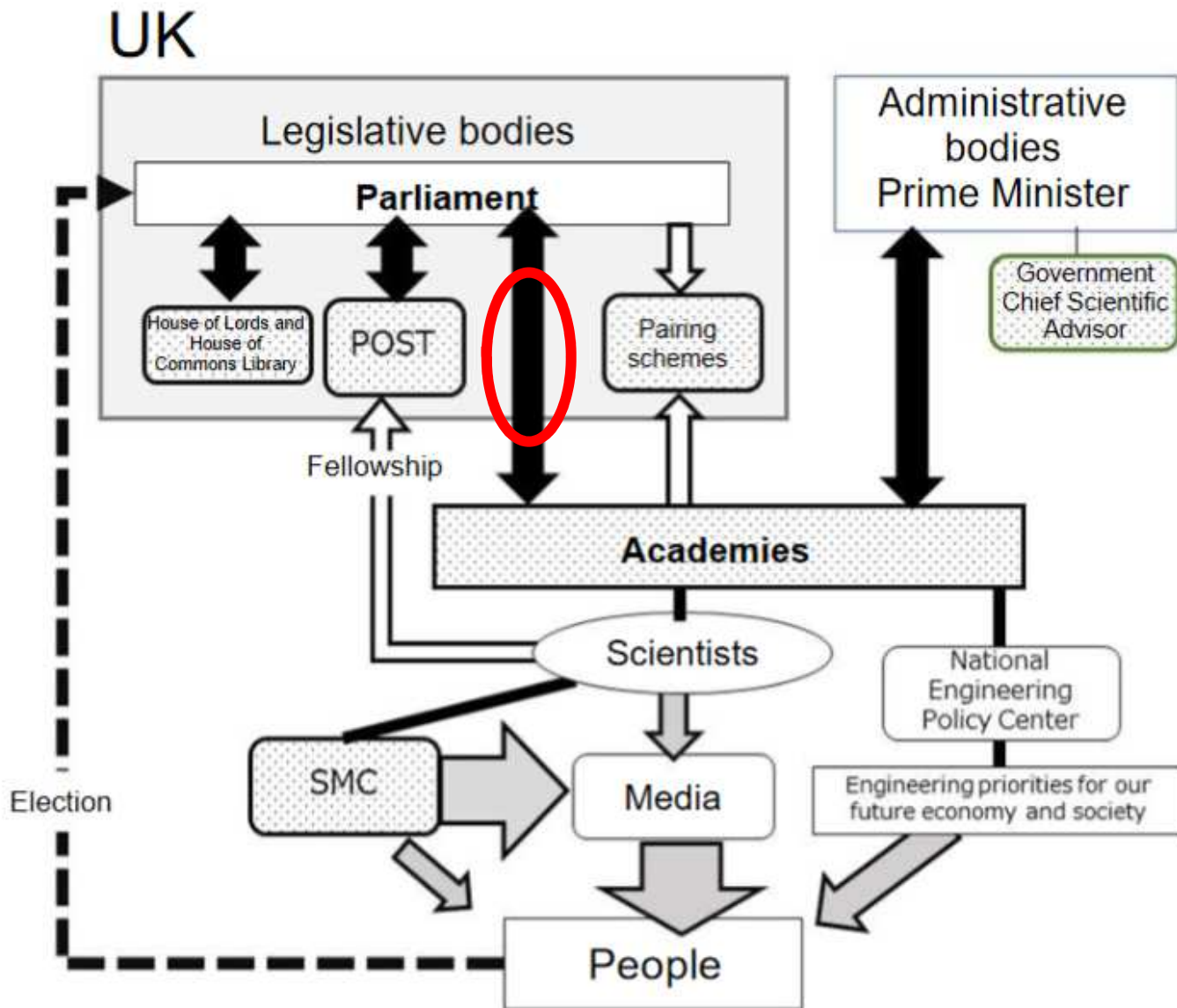


Research and Legislative Reference Bureau  
National Diet Library

## Research agenda

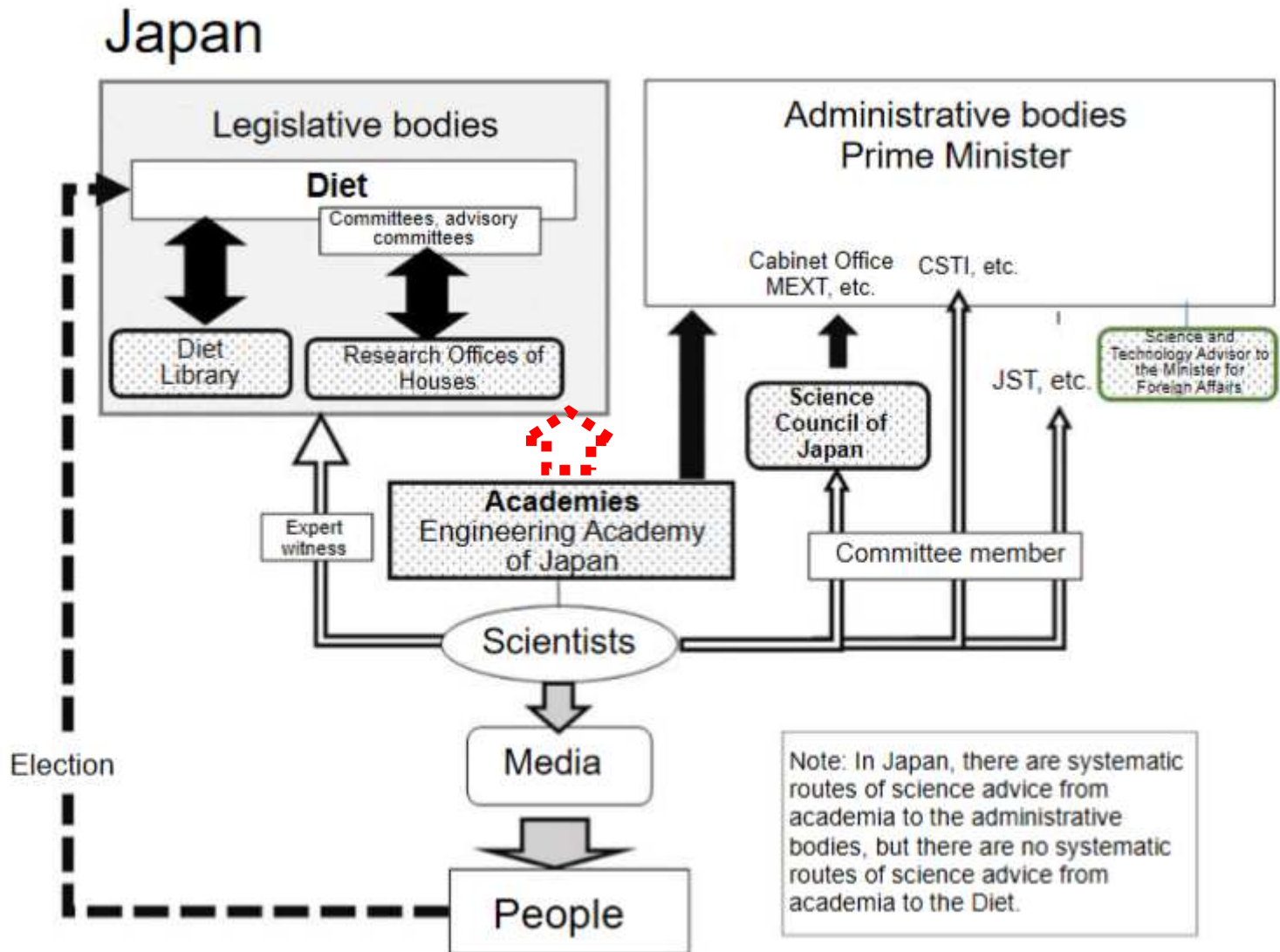


- In a democratic nation, Parliamentarians gain insights on the relationship between science and technology and society from a neutral and solid organization (not just from individual experts) and the options obtained are utilized in the policy making process. Isn't it necessary to create such a system in Japan over the medium to long term?
- For this purpose, what can the academia side (for example, EAJ for engineering) do?

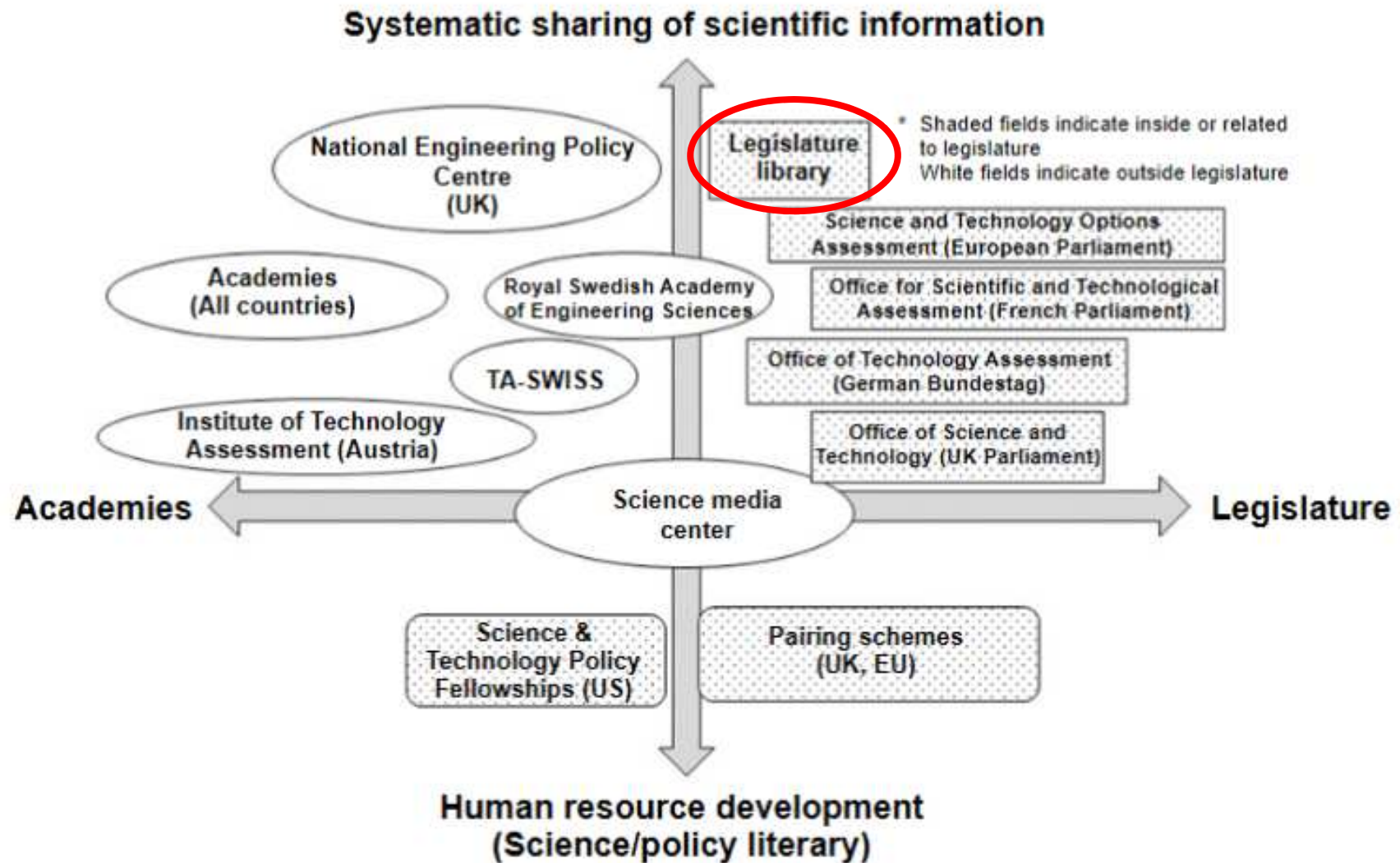


**Figure 1-1 Flow of legislature science advice in the UK**

Source: Prepared by this research study.



**Figure 1-8** Flow of legislature science advice in Japan  
 Source: Prepared by this research study.



**Figure 2 Provision of scientific information to parliament and human resource development (Europe, US)**

Source: Prepared by this research study referencing the Science and Technology Research Project 2017 Report "Policy Decisions and Scientific Literacy" March 2018 (National Diet Library).

## Summary of this survey / trial study



### 1. Sharing scientific information

- Academia is not prepared to provide information to Diet.
- Diet members have few opportunities to freely exchange opinions about the trend of science and technology.

### 2. Providing policy options

- Academia has not offered policy options for Diet.
- Diet has not asked it, either.

### 3. Policy literacy

- Academia lacks the ability to tell what the current politics and policies want, what can make people convinced, and what is feasible as a policy.

### 4. Diet member's feelings about the same issues.

- Difficult to recognize that a lack of systematic exchange of opinions is causing an extremely dire situation.
- Aware of asymmetry or poorness being present in getting information, compared with administrative bodies.
- Unrecognized about Pairing schemes and Fellowships to Congress.





## 5 Measures the EAJ shall take

- ① Sharing information with Diet members:
  - Steadily increase **individual contact points with Diet members**, instead of creating a large-scaled system with the entire legislature.
  - Start with **younger Diet members**.
  
- ② Information sharing with research-related departments of legislative bodies
  - Regular mutual information provision.
  - Advice about **selection of persons such as expert witnesses**
  
- ③ Improving policy literacy
  - Realization of pre-pairing scheme (to **arrange a Diet member interview session performed by graduate students** or young researchers)

# ***1<sup>st</sup> Dialogue between Politicians and Scientists***

***Topic : S&T and Innovation Policy after the corona pandemic***



- **Representative Participation :**  
Five members (Lower House) , One member (Upper House)
- **Presentation :** Prof. Yuko Harayama, Vice President EAJ
- **Date :** December 9, 2020, 10 am ~11 am
- **Venue :** House of Representatives
- **Organization :** EAJ

# *2<sup>nd</sup> Dialogue between Politicians and Scientist*

*Topic : Co-Creation with young researchers who will hold future Japan*



- Date : March 18, 2021
- Venue :  
House of Representatives
- Representative Participation :  
Four members (Lower House)  
One member (Upper House)

[From the right]  
Mr. Sakuma (Bachelor Student, Osaka Univ.)  
Ms. Akiyama (PhD Researcher, Tokyo Univ.)  
Mr. Kamo (Bachelor Student, Temporary  
withdrawal, Tokyo Univ. CEO, POL Inc.)  
Ms. Tamaki (Associate Prof. Waseda Univ.  
CEO, H2L Inc.)  
MC: Nagano



## **Significance of this undertaking**

1. The **corona pandemic** has raised doubts about the relationship between experts and politics, and the division of their roles.
2. According to a renowned political scientist, after the experts of infectious diseases predominated over the decision-making mechanism, counterarguments from other fields have followed, then the structure where **politics will wait for experts to draw convenient conclusions** has emerged. This has sparked **citizens' frustration**, then led to criticism of politics and science.
3. The relationship between politics and science was further confused due to the nomination rejection by PM of some members of the Science Council of Japan.
- 4. The essential problem : There is no sound communication path between science and legislature.**
5. EAJ's undertaking was not related to the above Problems. However, these incidents spotlighted its significance.