



Citizen Science Initiative Japan (CSIJ) is a Japanese NGO which has been working for over ten years to solve some social issues which relate to science and technology (STS: science, technology and society). Its overall aim is to control development of science and technology appropriately in order to achieve sustainable and fair society.

The concept of **citizen science** is, in our standpoint, predicated on these three ideas:

- 1) *citizen participation in science-technology policy making processes*
- 2) *various methods which enable citizen to approach and utilize expertise*
- 3) *editing or reorganizing science-related activities to make “science of the people by the people for the people”*

Main activities of CSIJ are as follows,

1) Open Lectures to citizens

The lectures are open to anyone. We hold them once a month, picking up hot topics relating to STS. Although these lectures sometimes given by guest researchers or journalists or activists, about half of them are supposed to be given by our research members based on our original work. We are trying to get participants in the lectures conscious of how the relevant issue is associated with our daily life. These lectures can give them basic knowledge of the issue and how to access expertise to achieve a solution.

2) Living Science Project

We think we have to attach great importance to the relation between science/technology and ordinary daily life. So we are surveying systematically what relations really are and what kind of communication is required according to the relations. This work is regarded as a theoretical part of the activities called “**Living Science**”. Living Science can be defined as activities to re-edit expertise of science and technology from the perspective based on daily life of citizens, and then to develop concrete ways to feed back the outcomes to citizens.

3) 7 Research Projects through collaboration between experts and non-experts

In Japan the number of NPOs which are working for solution of STS issues is small. It means it is difficult for citizens to initiate critical and independent movements against government or big companies when the movements are needed. When it comes to science and technology, people tend to hesitate to tackle it because some expertise seems too difficult for them to understand. So we need appropriate ways of collaboration between experts and non-experts, and feasible way to utilize expertise by citizens. CSIJ has 7 project teams which are composed of from five to ten members respectively.



Environmental EFM(electromagnetic field) / Nano-tech & Society / Comprehensive Food Science /
Tools for Science Communication / Exposure to Low Level of Radiation /
Life Manipulation & Enhancement / Housing Conditions

Each team has set its own research goal which is going to be attained in a year or two. The working members in these teams are graduate students, think-tank stuff, consultant, researcher in private companies, etc. Once or twice a month, they have inner seminary. Gradually they get the basic knowledge of the relevant field, and bring the latest information together, and discuss what to do and how to do. Result of the research is released timely via the Internet or in other appropriate manner.

We hope our activities will stimulate science communication activities of other groups and make some collaboration in the future.

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