

## Chapter 4

# Urgent tasks for IIAS

With regards to the diverse issues raised in Chapter 3, IIAS must launch numerous working groups to drive the discussion forward while taking into account their inter-related nature, and make clear the route to resolution, but it is difficult to address all of these problems at once. Based on the awareness that the earth's resources are finite, we will launch three working groups dedicated to the three most pressing outlined in this chapter, and conduct intensive discussions while taking into account their inter-related nature and aiming to obtain a conclusion in two to three years. If issues for which it is deemed necessary to create new working groups come to light while intensively examining these issues, the number of working groups will be increased.



## 1. Science and technology in consideration of the global community in the future

Today, the methods and ideological frameworks of modern science that have been built over the last few hundred years are approaching a major crossroad, against the backdrop of globalization of science and technology research, the revolutionary pace of progress in digital technology, the increasing complexity and globalization of issues facing our society and economy, and the convergence of socioeconomic value creation and research into science and technology.

Discussions are taking place all over the world regarding this issue. In the working groups, a broad,

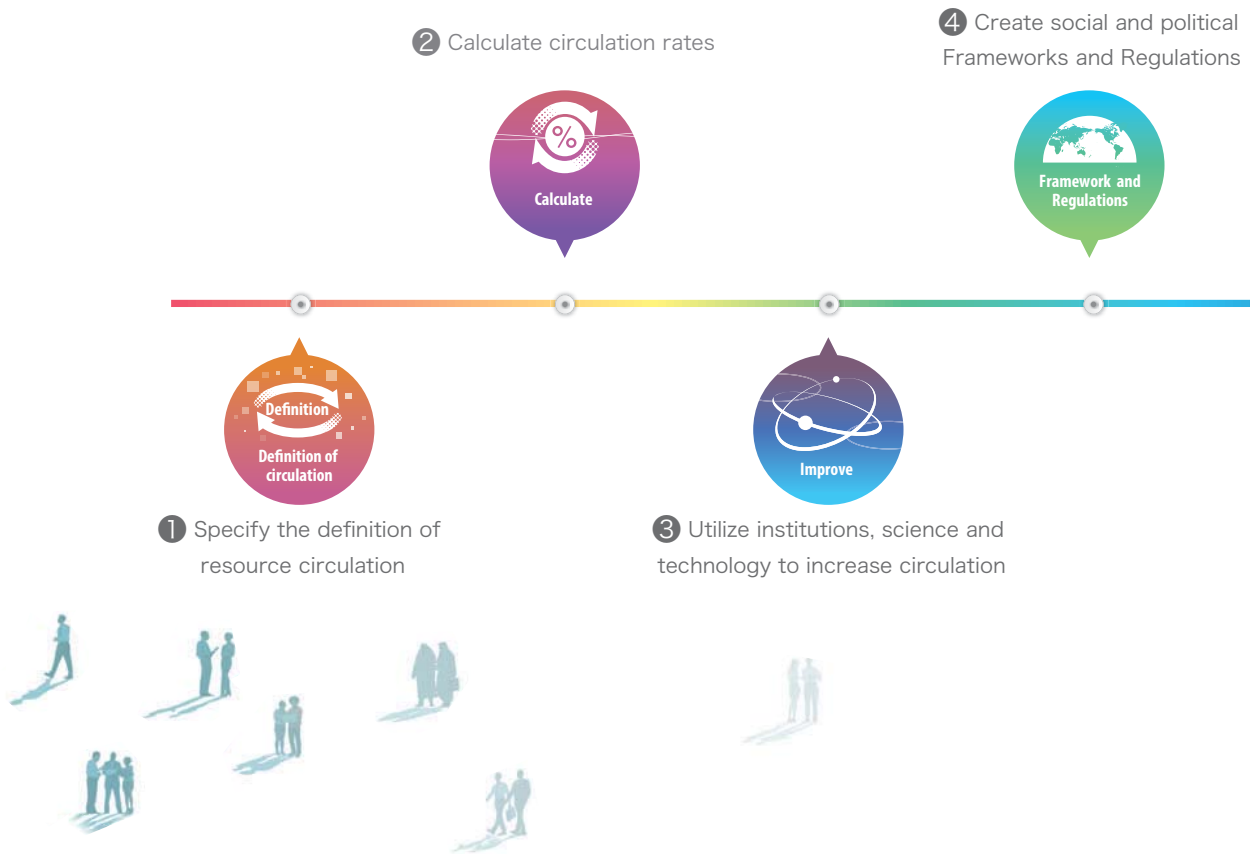
historical and contemporaneous view will be taken and fundamental issues such as what constitutes academic study, science and technology, and universities will be reexamined. *In the course of doing so, it is very important to discuss the future directions for scientific and technological activities in the face of problems confronting the global community, such as the earth's limited resources, severe environmental destruction and pollution, to name a few.* We will then present the outcome to the world.



## 2. The necessity and measures of building a circular, steady-state economic society

In consideration of limited earth, a pressing issue facing humanity, it is obvious that the relentless pursuit of wealth through modern capitalism will lead, if unchanged, to the depletion of global resources, an increased wealth gap, and the swift extinction of the human race. *As such, it is necessary for us to go beyond our concept of progress and development, build a stable, recycling economy and a sustainable society, reduce the wealth gap as far as possible, and create a society that guarantees a cultural lifestyle.* This working group will paint the picture of such society and discuss what needs to be done to make a smooth transition into it.

As such, it is necessary for this working group to make clear the definition of resource circulation and specific details of what it involves. The working group must also develop a formula for calculating the levels of circulation or circulation rate, apply it to each country, society, and field. For the societies and areas with a low level of circulation, the group will identify the causes and explore ways to eliminate them. To this end, it is necessary to create social and political frameworks, regulations, and science and technology at the international level, so the group will discuss this from policy perspectives.



### 3. Measures for a peaceful coexistence of states and societies with differing values

We must ask ourselves what prevents the peaceful coexistence of a diversity of people, societies, and states that have different ways of thinking and values, morals, religions, and other qualities. This working group will consider what measures are required to eliminate the obstacles, and what we have to do to be able to visualize the road to peaceful coexistence. As such, the working group will produce indicators that focus on human-centered values to replace the widely used GDP indicator of economic activity, and create a worldwide network to discuss this issue. Discussions will place emphasis on the perspectives of realizing a recycling, stable economic society that values the planet's limited resources, and creating measures to overcome the differences between values, ethical views, religions, and other factors in order to achieve a peaceful coexistence.

While this may seem like an extremely difficult problem to address, humanity has always made efforts to overcome the many difficult problems it has faced through ethics, morals, and religions. Similar issues are already being raised and discussed around the world, so the working group shall first compile the

information available in order to gain an overview. By performing a research in Japan, a country that has at its foundation a spirit of tolerance, harmony, and mutual benefit, we can provide ideas and proposals from a unique perspective and can lead this kind of discussion around the world.

These three issues are very closely linked to each other, so it is important to take discussions forward while ensuring coordination among the three working groups through information sharing and interaction. Even if it were to take a decade or more, it is necessary to create a platform on a global scale and con-

tinue efforts to resolve the issues. IIAS must immediately work out practicable frameworks and methods to effectively address those issues, based on its 30 years of experience and keeping in view its limited resources.

### 4. The importance of creating an open platform for research on these issues

A working group of specialists will be formed for each of the three issues mentioned above, and a thorough research will be performed into each issue. As well as presenting the details of the research to many members of society at various phases of discussion, it is necessary to obtain opinions from such people and deepen the discussion, for which the use of symposiums and the Internet can be considered. Of particular note, ideas should be generated for a venue for collaborative discussion with the young people who will lead the next generation. Such activities will help promote the recognition of the significance of IIAS research activities.

