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HESI Scientific Mapping

AYAKO TAKEI, MPH
Scientific Adviser, ILSI HESI

< Summary >

Scientific mapping is a useful tool for identifying those challenges that are, or are likely to become, highly relevant for an organization seeking to understand its existing and future landscape. HESI held a scientific mapping exercise in 2004 to identify and prioritize potential scientific, regulatory, and societal issues that present opportunities for HESI activities over the next ten years. Scientists from government, academia, and industry in the US and Europe were invited to participate in the exercise. Through interactive discussion at the 2004 exercise, an array of scientific, regulatory, and societal issues was developed from a list of almost 200 proposed issues. Based on an analysis of the likely timeframe and potential impact of each issue, a “combined challenges map” was prepared. Since 2004, the HESI Combined Challenges Map has contributed significantly to the organization's strategic planning, and enabled HESI to apply its limited resources to priority scientific and regulatory challenges of importance to society in a relevant and timely way.

In 2009, HESI held its second scientific mapping exercise to identify and prioritize potential scientific, regulatory, and societal issues over the period from 2010 to 2020. The January meeting in Hamamatsu, Japan, was the first step in a two-step process to update the HESI Combined Challenges Map. The second step took place in July when invited representatives from the US, European, and Japanese scientific communities convened in Reston, VA to integrate the results from the January session in Japan with inputs from other regions of the world. The outcome and consensus obtained in the July meeting has been released as the updated HESI Combined Challenges Map on the website of HESI.

The January Scientific Mapping Meeting in Japan was a significant step forward in fostering communication and understanding between HESI and key contacts in Japan. Productive tripartite discussions in Japan modeled after the January meeting are expected to enhance Japanese input into HESI programs and enrich its scientific portfolio.