

The Japan Educational Research Association

**Urgent Statement on the Appointment of New Members
to the 25th Term of the Science Council of Japan**

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has failed to appoint six nominees recommended as candidates to be new members of the 25th term of the Science Council of Japan. In addition, regarding the reason for the failure to appoint the candidates, the prime minister stated in an interview at the cabinet press conference on October 5, “I made a decision on the appointments this time from a viewpoint of securing comprehensive and bird’s-eye view activities.” However, the prime minister has refused to give a full explanation of the reasons or background for the failure to appoint the candidates by stating, for example, “I would like to refrain from making comments on individual matters of personnel.” This threatens the independence, provided for in the Science Council of Japan Act, of the Council, and, further, this is also a grave violation of “academic freedom” guaranteed by the Constitution of Japan. This academic society, promoting the progress and diffusion of pedagogy, and thus having the purpose of contributing to the development of Japan’s scholarship, is deeply concerned by this turn of events.

For the above reasons, the Japan Educational Research Association strongly requests that the prime minister take the following actions:

1. Make fully clear the background and reasons for the refusal to appoint the six candidates not appointed out of the candidates recommended by the Science Council of Japan on August 31st.
2. Retract the refusal to appoint the abovementioned six candidates and immediately appoint them.

October 7, 2020

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