

Research & Recommendations

Research and recommendations into the ideal future society and solutions for societal issues, in light of broader trends

Through our A: Research & Recommendations, conducted in light of long-term economic, social, and technological trends, we identify societal issues and disseminate recommendations for the desirable world of the future. Our research and recommendations cover original, cutting-edge, effective solutions and processes based on our knowledge of public policy, knowledge of technologies, and experience gained through societal implementation projects.

Case Study 1 Future Society 2050

Envisioning an affluent and sustainable world

The world is changing at a dizzying pace amid rapidly evolving technology. This calls for setting a wise course based on an accurate view of the future.

As part of our co-creating the future initiatives, we published *Future Society 2050* in October 2019. The report projects global trends out to 2050 and makes recommendations for Japan's role in bringing about an affluent and sustainable world.

By 2050, the digital and platform economy is likely to spread worldwide. A new international order is called for as the hegemony of the US and China declines while the economies of Asia grow. A growing awareness of the resource and energy cycles is likely as the global population continues to increase.

Japan is faced with five serious challenges in such a future world:

1. Contribution to the world through Japan's strengths
2. Creating value through digital and physical integration
3. Management for sustainable local communities
4. Diverse values and the "true to oneself" concept
5. Fiscal and social security system to support the 100-year life era

The key to the future as we approach 2050 is persistence in working on these five challenges, maximizing Japan's strengths while applying new human-centric technologies.

As well as sharing this report and making recommendations, MRI works through government committees and other initiatives to make specific suggestions that assist in policymaking.

Future Society 2050
www.mri.co.jp/en/knowledge/insight/20200226.html

Case Study 2 Technology Megatrends

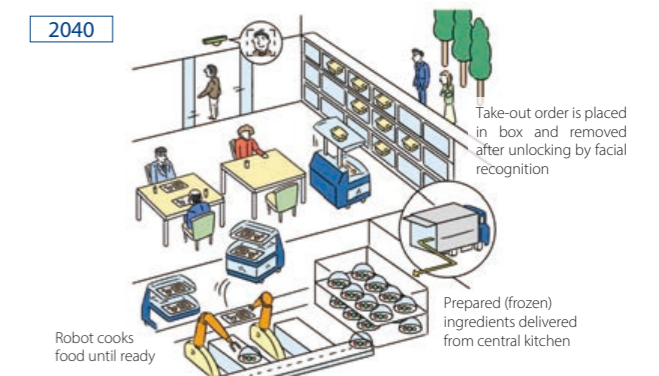
Envisioning the future of society created by advanced technology

The commercialization and societal implementation of technology have the potential to cast both light and shadow on the future society, the economy, and the humanity of individuals.

In four technological areas—genomic medicine, human augmentation (robotics), artificial general intelligence, and quantum computing—MRI keeps abreast of emerging developments to analyze and evaluate future projections and examine potential unexpected consequences. For example, building massive databases of cancer patients' genetic data has attracted much attention in the genomic medicine field, but if progress in cancer treatment outpaces that of dementia treatment, dementia patient numbers may rise. The spread of robots in the service sector may boost productivity and lower prices, but if robotics spreads faster than the working age population declines, unemployment numbers and economic inequality could grow. Amid

developing advanced technologies, it will be essential to conduct appropriate study of potential future societal impacts and establish measures to ensure the betterment of society.

Service Robots in the Future Foodservice Industry



Case Study 3 Listings of Societal Issues

Insights for creating businesses that resolve societal issues

MRI launched the Innovation Network for Co-Creating the Future (INCF) in 2017 and is working to resolve societal issues through innovation and business. We analyze and categorize such issues and publish annual listings* of those amenable to innovation.

The 2019 edition analyzes and structures issues in six areas: Wellness, Water and Food, Energy and Environment, Mobility, Disaster Prevention and Infrastructure, and Education and Human Resource Development. In addition to its focus on solutions, the 2019 edition also covers advanced technology trends and the outlook for commercialization and regulatory reform for each area.

Our selection of issues takes into consideration their severity and priority in Japan, a leader in societal issues. We also incorporated a global perspective in light of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

We build a comprehensive, systematic database of societal issues when creating the list and will maintain our scientific,

* Listings of societal issues: A list of issues facing society amenable to solution through innovation

evidence-based approach to tackling societal issues in the future.

[Link to application form to download listings](https://incf.smtkg.jp/public/application/add/112)
<https://incf.smtkg.jp/public/application/add/112>

Societal Issues by Field

