

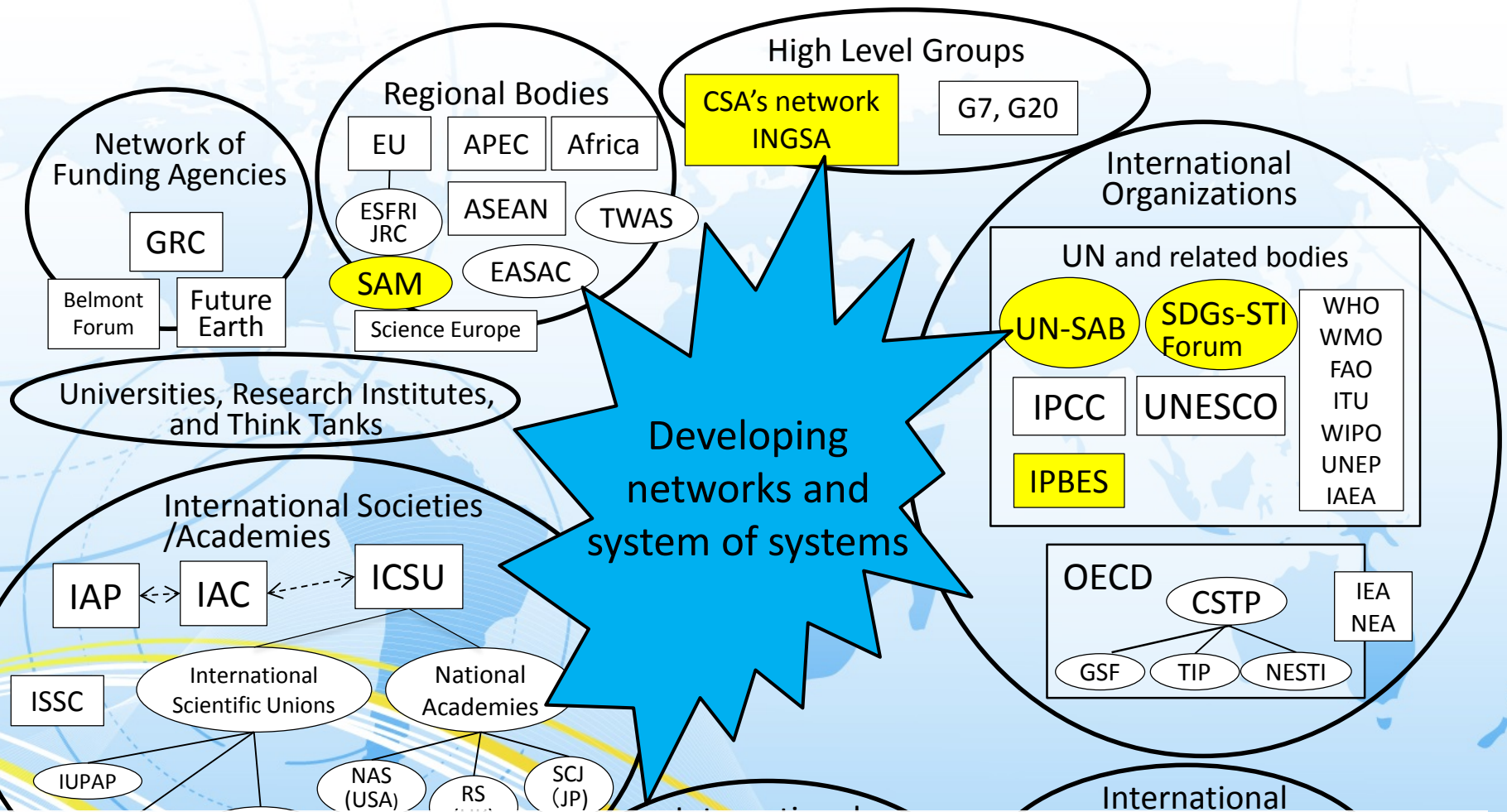
Learning across National Borders and Policy Fields: Empirical Perspectives

The 2nd International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) Conference

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International mechanisms related to scientific advice



Surge of attention to scientific advice in the last five years

- to address global issues
- to learn from each other

The earthquake, tsunami, and the nuclear accident

Serious discussion on scientific advice in Japan was triggered by the triple disasters of March 11, 2011.

- The Great East Japan Earthquake, the largest earthquake ever recorded in Japan
- Tsunami, which was caused by the earthquake and resulting in the loss of 18,500 lives
- The Fukushima nuclear disaster, which evacuated people within 20km from the site

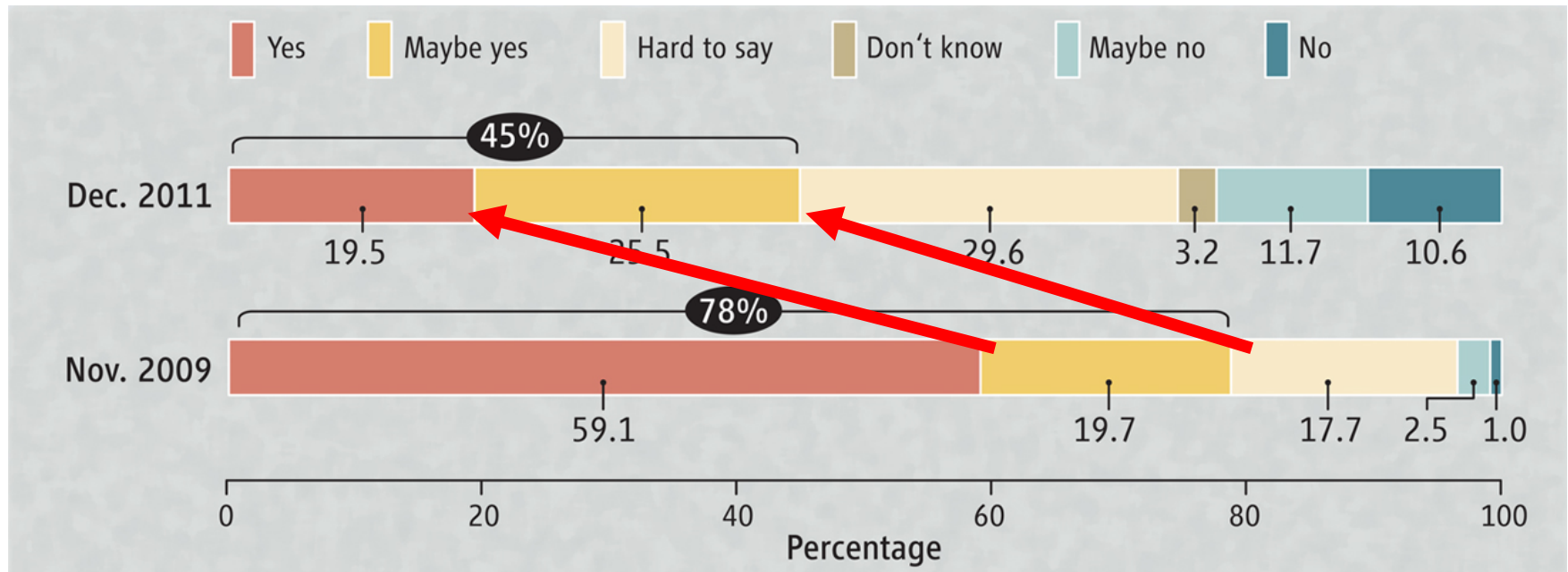


“The absence of a strong and independent scientific voice to advise the government.”

– Nature 480, 291 (15 December 2011)

Loss of public trust in science

Failed expectations for seismic science, fall of the nuclear safety myth, attention to the closed nuclear community, poor mobilization of science in emergency situations, all contributed to the loss of public trust in science.



Survey results. Question: Should the direction of research and development be decided by experts who are well-versed in the subject?

Source: adapted from Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Summary of a White Paper on science and technology, 2011, July 2012.

Chief Scientific Advisor in Japan?

Creating the position of Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister was seriously considered in Japan.

- Great attention paid to the role played by Sir John Beddington, then U.K. Government Chief Scientific Advisor, who advised not to evacuate U.K. nationals in Japan, reassuring not only the British but also Japanese people.
- A series of international symposia were held in Tokyo.



Sir John Beddington bestowed an order by the Japanese government, 26 June 2014.

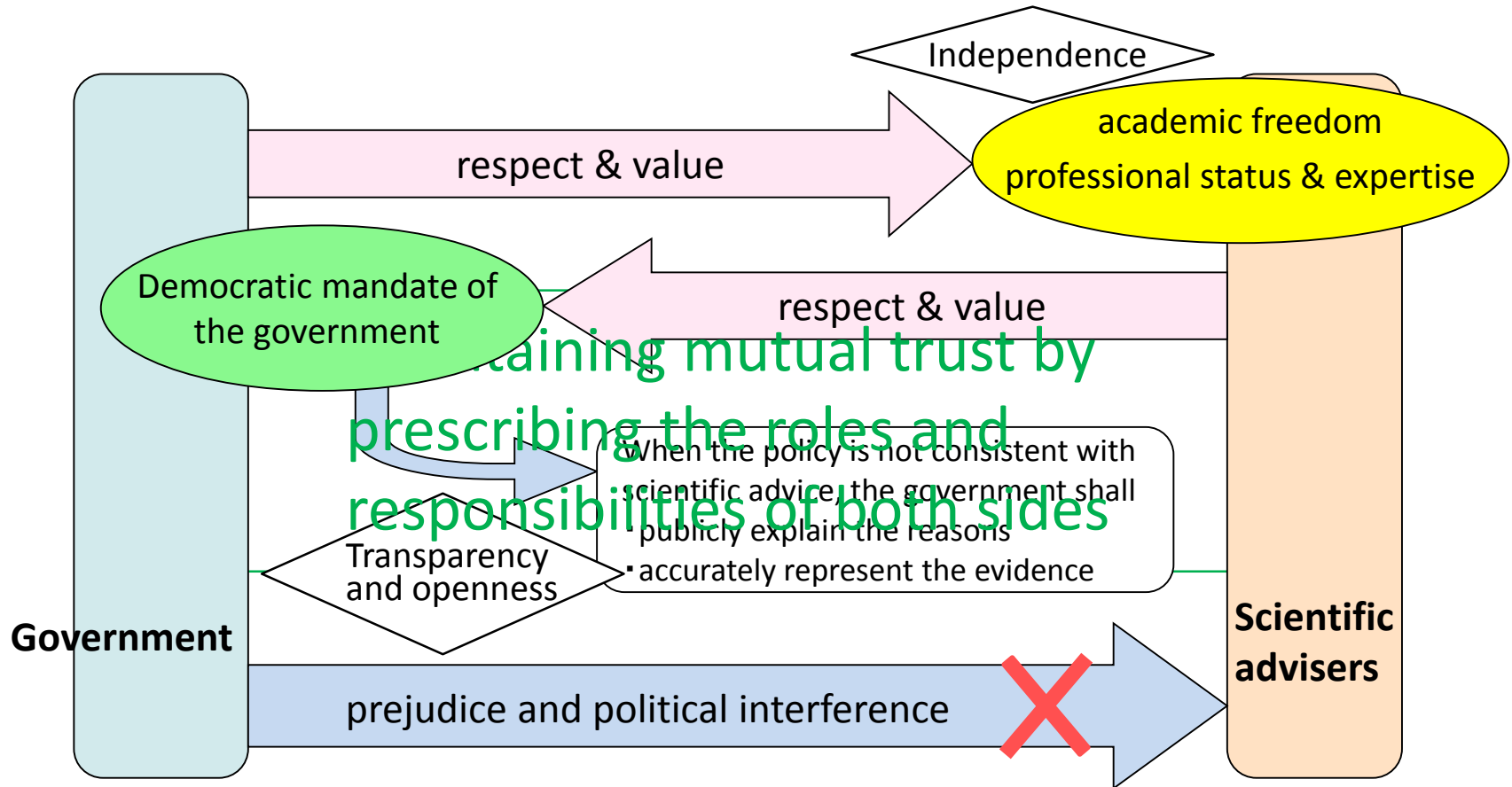
A Cabinet Office's study group in late 2011 recommended creating such a position, but the proposal did not materialize.

→ A “one-size-fits-all” model of scientific advice would not work.

But in September 2015, the first Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs was appointed.

Codes of conduct in Japan

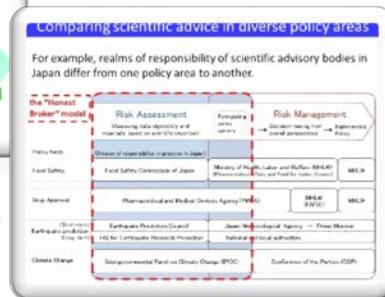
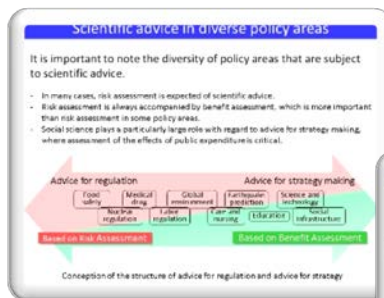
Principles, guidelines, and codes of conduct overseas was studied, and original codes of conduct was developed in Japan.



Basic concepts shown in UK Department of Business, Innovation, and Skills, "Principles of Scientific Advice to Government" (March 24, 2010).

Learning across policy fields

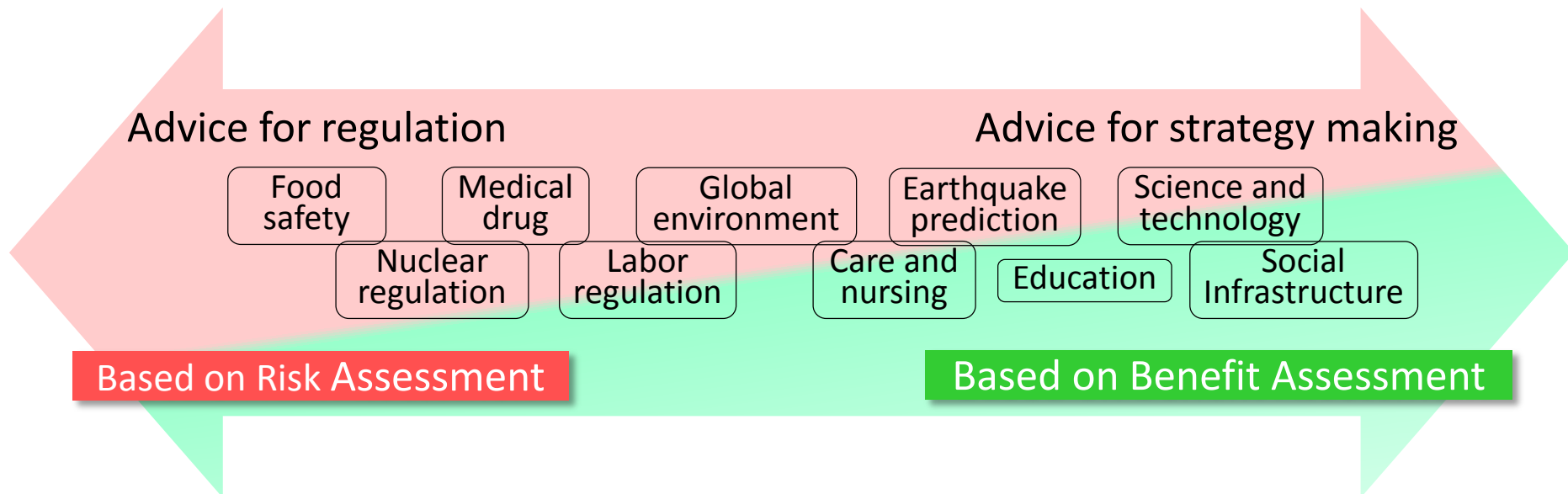
Dialogue between policy fields, and that between the risk analysis community and the scientific advice community, are needed.



Scientific advice in diverse policy areas

It is important to note the diversity of policy areas that are subject to scientific advice.

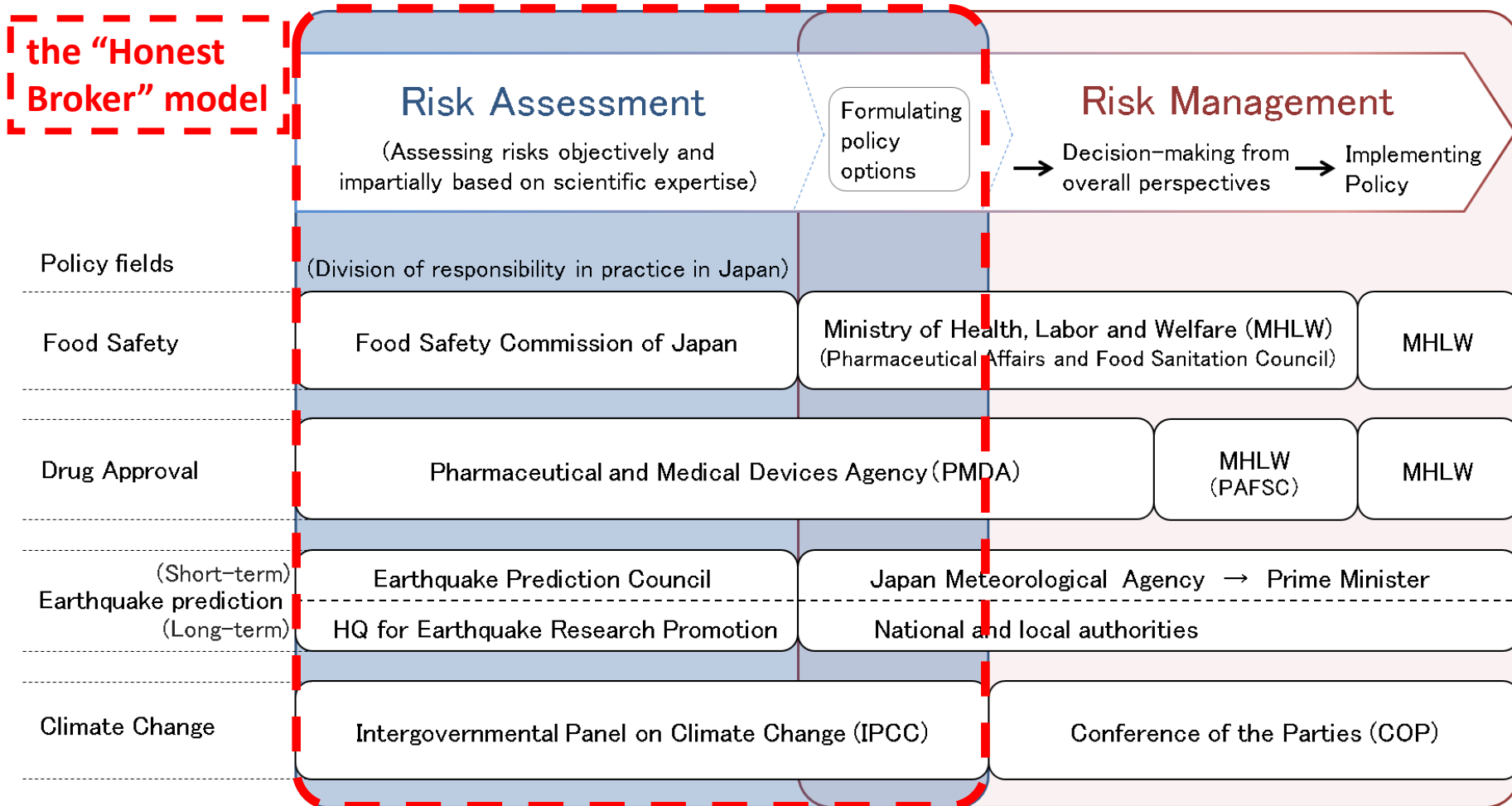
- In many cases, risk assessment is expected of scientific advice.
- Risk assessment is always accompanied by benefit assessment, which is more important than risk assessment in some policy areas.
- Social science plays a particularly large role with regard to advice for strategy making, where assessment of the effects of public expenditure is critical.



Conception of the structure of advice for regulation and advice for strategy

Comparing scientific advice in diverse policy areas

For example, realms of responsibility of scientific advisory bodies in Japan differ from one policy area to another.



Thank you for your attention –

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For more information on this topic, please refer to

- Tateo Arimoto and Yasushi Sato, "Rebuilding Public Trust in Science for Policy-Making," *Science* 337 (7 September 2012), pp. 1176-1177.
- Tateo Arimoto and Yasushi Sato, "Crisis, renewal and the prospects for science advice in Japan, Guardian," 28 August 2014, The Guardian.
- Yasushi Sato, Hirokazu Koi, and Tateo Arimoto, "Building the Foundations for Scientific Advice in the International Context," *Science & Diplomacy* 3:3 (September 2014).
- Yasushi Sato and Tateo Arimoto, "Five years after Fukushima: scientific advice in Japan," *Palgrave Communications* 2:16025 (7 June 2016).