From a declining population in developed countries to instant access to information worldwide, the possibilities and challenges we face in the 21st century are unlike anything the human race has experienced in its entire history. Among the many challenges we face, there are issues that we are not fully aware of yet, and that can have an enormous negative impact if left unattended. We call these types of challenges “latent issues”.

The goal of the Open Engineering Center is to identify or predict these latent issues and use the open engineering concept based on open discussion and collaboration with a variety of stakeholders to address these problems before they fully develop. Furthermore, through this process, we will actively contribute to the democratization of technology (in the sense that not only certain people will benefit from it).

**OPEN ENGINEERING, SOLVE LATENT ISSUES**

**Methodological Study of Open Engineering**

Systematize methodologies for creating collaboration toward the engineering by typifying forms of collaboration inside and outside the profession.

**Minority Research**

1. Through surveys of groups with specific characteristics (or who are sensitive to specific issues), we will extract latent issues that have not yet been manifested in the whole society or in other groups.
2. Extract the direction of the solution that citizens truly desire and the seeds of innovation from the process of discussion by the people concerned.

**Fringe Research**

We will extract latent issues through surveys of fringe areas where social issues are likely to emerge.

1. Leading place: where social changes have emerged ahead of others.
2. Interface: where different climatic zones, plates, communities collide.
3. Polar: extreme environments, where extreme weather occurs.

**Connecting Communication Channels**

2. Collaboration with external research institutions.

**Demonstration and Implementation**

We will obtain some feedback by implementation of researches which have been conducted in the laboratory in the field. Through these feedback, we will extract new issues that need to be addressed and develop our research.

**Improvement of social acceptability**

1. Extract evaluation criteria for the technology of citizens.
2. Extract latent issues that may arise at implementation of technology from the view of ELSI thorough the process of public discussion.
3. Support the development of technologies with high social acceptability based on the above.

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