

Opening Remarks

Wednesday, October 9th, 2013
Professor Takashi Onishi
President, Science Council of Japan

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to make an opening remarks in this occasion.

Science Council of Japan (SCJ) has a mission to deliberate on important issues concerning broad range of sciences. Specifically, we have continued discussions on ‘building a sustainable society’ from the standpoint of academic research. While international academic organizations such as ICSU and IAP/IAC have made contributions globally to build a sustainable society and launched various programs on sustainability since the Earth Summit (the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)), synchronizingly, SCJ has been committing itself and taking initiative to carry out its own activities toward the same purposes.

Meanwhile, the earthquake and tsunami of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) in March 2011 had impact on the residents’ health and eco-system, on the economy and social life. And the world’s energy policies have become major concerns in overseas as well as in Japan. At SCJ, we held international conferences called “IAC/SCJ International Conference on the Impact of the Nuclear Plant Accident” last year and “Wisdom for Recovery from Disasters and Risk Control” in this January.

At today’s “International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability”, with co-organizing by ICSU, IAP, IAC, and UNU, we will cover the topic of “Colossal Multiple Disaster (Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Plant Accident) — Repercussions, Countermeasures, and Future Policy Choices.” I am pleased to announce that our keynote speakers are Professor Robbert

Dijkgraaf, who leads activities as a Co-Chair of an international academic organization, IAC, and Professor Koichi Kitazawa, Chairman, Independent Investigation Commission on the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant Accident. Also, Professor Yuan Tseh Lee, ICSU President, is our guest speaker.

Then we will have four sessions. In Session 1 “Repercussions on Agriculture Fields and Fishery Areas and Recovery from Disaster”, we will discuss the actual state of impacts of the large-scale natural disasters on the coastal eco-system; followed by those about impacts of the colossal multiple disasters on the primary industry.

In Session 2 “Health management and radiation protection for residents and workers”, we will focus on external and internal state of radiation exposure on residents and labor environment and state of radiation exposure on laborers working at the nuclear plant site.

In Session 3 “Investigation and Analysis of the Nuclear Power Plant Accident and Radioactive Pollution”, we will discuss matters based on investigation and analysis of causes of the accident and results of investigation on radiation exposure on residents.

In Session 4 “Abolition/Decommission of Nuclear Reactors and Future Utilization of Nuclear Energy”, we will discuss mid- and long-term roadmaps and action plans for abolition of the failed reactors and decommission of aged reactors in the aim of the international cooperation and sharing of the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

I sincerely hope that this conference will be fruitful for all of you. And in closing, I would like to mention my gratitude to Nikkei Newspaper for its sponsorship.

Thank you and please enjoy your conference.