

Opening Remarks
in France–Japan Symposium
on Advanced Materials for Energy Future
June, 30th, 2014,

President, Science Council of Japan
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Mr. Jacque Maleval, Embassy of France
Distinguished Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to say a few words in the opening of Symposium on “Advanced Materials for Energy Future” sponsored by the Embassy of France, Academies des France, and Science Council of Japan. First of all, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Embassy of France for your sincere involvement in science and technology fields. Your constructive suggestion to have a scientific event with Japanese scientists made this symposium put into practice.

Science council of Japan is representing scientists of Japan domestically and internationally since its establishment in 1949, to permeate science and technology in the society and develop them for industries and people. Among our many activities, it is understood that international scientific exchanges are extremely important. We have been promoting hosting international symposia in Japan or dispatching Japanese scientists abroad.

Let me mention in this opportunity a close relationship between Academie des France and Science Council Japan. We have been constructing very strong tie for a long time. And, we have never forgotten that Academie des France made a report of recommendation for the reconstruction from the Great East Japan Disaster and Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants accident, and the then Vice President, Professor Philippe TAQUET, now President, Academie des France came to Japan, in August, 2011 and handed it over to Science Council of Japan. The recommendation was entitled “Solidarite Japon”, which were the results of profound discussions among French experts in the fields. Thanks to French academy’s supports, we were able to tackle with the reconstruction and nuclear power plant issues more actively, although it was not easy to settle discussions inside our academy or in our society. I believe French Academy told us that the role of scientists was to try to find scientific solutions or recommendations to the society in the situation at risk. Of course, views on reconstruction or nuclear power plants are not same between two academies. Our view must be very severe because we had an experience of the serious accident. However, we think the mutual exchange of views is exceedingly

important to enhance security, safety and reliability of the application of science and technology to the society

Of course, scientific exchanges between Japan and France is not only in the fields of natural hazards and nuclear power plant accidents, but also could cover all the subjects, such as material sciences, energy supply and life sciences. This time, we raised material sciences and energy as symposium themes and had opportunity that experts of two countries meet together to discuss over the subjects. This is extremely important opportunity for experts in the field but also ideal opportunity for many Japanese audiences to understand the latest advancement of scientific research in France and also the way how French experts do think of these subjects.

In my field of study, which is city and regional planning, urbanism in French, we had common problem of mono-polar concentration of population and political, economic and social functions to the capital cities in the past. And the researchers and practitioners of the both countries tackled with this issue: how to decentralize the population and functions concentrated in the capital cities. Now France, realizes stable situation in population throughout the country, however Japan faces still population declining situation especially in rural regions although Tokyo is still growing. Therefore, it is pointed out among Japanese researchers that we should learn more from French experiences not only in city and regional planning but also in population policies. This is just one of the cases to show mutual exchanges are useful. Therefore, I would like to expect that the relationship between two countries will get closer and deeper and the mutual understanding will develop further.

Before closing my opening remarks, I hope the participants can exchange each other making full use of the opportunity during the following two days. And also, I hope you can enjoy memorable days in Roppongi, in the vicinity of SCJ, where many museums, restaurants and shops are located.

Thank you very much for your attention. And I hope you will enjoy your symposium.