

Opening Address

Tokyo Conference on International Study for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

January 14th, 2015

Professor Takashi Onishi
President, Science Council of Japan

Your Imperial Highness, The Crown Prince,

Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,

Prof. Gordon McBean, President, International Council for Science (ICSU),

Dr. Han Seung-Soo, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water,

Prof. David Johnston, Chair of Science Committee, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

Prof. Junichi Hamada, President, The University of Tokyo,

Distinguished guests, Fellow researchers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to declare here the opening of Tokyo Conference on International Study for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. This conference is jointly organized by Science Council of Japan (SCJ), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) and Ito International Research Center Conference, The University of Tokyo. As the chair of International Organizing Committee, It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you from 31 countries to this conference,

Disasters suddenly deprive us of our peaceful daily lives and sometimes even the prosperity of a country. Therefore, enhancing the preparedness for them is indispensable to secure stable life and prosperity of people and countries. As one of countries attacked by natural hazards often, we Japanese understand the risk of natural disasters. But as we have an old saying, "Danger past, God forgotten", we are likely to forget the preparation for natural disasters as time has been passing from the latest severe disaster experience.

Therefore, science and technology must not only find effective measures to reduce natural disasters,

but also incorporate them into society to maintain high resilience. This conference is to be held to discuss the role of science and technology in disaster risk reduction, and to bring the results of the conference to the World Conference Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, March this year, organized by United Nations as useful inputs from science and technology. The world eyes are focusing on and expecting what scientists will discuss and propose. And I am sure the scientists, gathering together here, can come up to the expectations.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the supporters for this conference, Obayashi Foundation, Kajima, Shimizu, Taisei, Goyo, Maeda, Toyo and Toua Construction Companies, CTI Engineering, Kokusai Kougyo, Infrastructure Development Institute Japan, Nippon Kouei and Local Organizing Committee members.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope all of you will have a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Tokyo.
Thank you for your attention.