

Address by the Organizer at the Opening Ceremony  
at the Science Symposium of Arctic Science Summit Week  
2015

Takashi Onishi  
President of Science Council of Japan

Monday, April 27, 2015  
Toyama International Conference Center

Your Imperial Highness Princess Takamado,  
Mr. Motoyuki Fujii, State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports,  
Science and Technology,  
Mr. Takashi Uto, Parliamentary Vice - Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Mr. Tadahiko Ito, a leading member of the Arctic Caucus in the Diet,  
Mr. Takakazu Ishii, Governor of Toyama Prefecture,  
Prof. Christopher Rapley, University College London,  
Dr. Susan Barr, President, IASC,  
Dr. Kazuyuki Shiraishi, Chairman, the Local Organizing Committee,  
ASSW 2015,  
Dr. Hiroyuki Enomoto, Vice Chairman, the Local Organizing  
Committee, ASSW 2015,  
Distinguished Guests, Fellow Researchers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed my great honor to deliver an address as a co-organizer at the opening ceremony of the Science Symposium of Arctic Science Summit Week 2015 in the presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado.

It is sad that I have to begin my address with expressing deep condolences and sympathies to those who lost their lives and their families by a big earthquake. I hope the lives as many as possible will be saved.

Science Council of Japan is a representative institution of Japan's scientific communities in all kinds, from Humanities to Engineering, including Life Sciences. Our primary purpose is to develop and advance scientific outcomes to ensure that the science is reflected in and permeates policy making, industry, and people's lives.

Since its establishment in 1949, with a view of promoting international exchange in science, we have been strengthening our ties with research institutions worldwide by hosting international conferences in Japan and dispatching researchers to conferences held abroad.

In this regard, we are very pleased to host this international summit and to welcome participants from over 24 countries and regions.

The Arctic is a frontline for earth residents. From the point of sustainable environmental aspects, the Arctic is an also frontline of vulnerability to rapid climate change. People in the world feel that it is important to conserve the Arctic to maintain biodiversity and culture of the indigenous people. On the other hand, it is pointed out

that it has potentiality to provide many opportunities for human well-beings such as new energy source and new marine transportation routes. We, as scientists, face big challenge of the Arctic both in terms of preservation and utilization.

For the sustainable development of the Arctic, scientific knowledge is indispensable. Therefore, I hope a great deal of research on the Arctic will be accomplished.

I am especially looking forward to hearing the many splendid scientific research results under the Fourth International Symposium of Arctic Research, sub-title of "Rapid change of the arctic climate system and its global influence". I hope that there will be intense discussions among Arctic Scientists crossing national and regional boundaries on significant research topics, future perspectives, and international collaborations under the Third International Conference for Arctic Research Planning.

I am also delighted as a co-organizer that this summit will be an occasion to share the meaning and importance of Arctic Science with the society through the general public forum.

Before closing my welcome address, I would like to express my wish for the great success of this congress. In addition, I hope that you have an enjoyable and memorable stay in Toyama, which was recently connected with the national capital region by newly operated Shin-Kansen; Bullet Trains. And of course, I hope all of you will have chances to deepen a better understanding of the unique

culture of this region.

Thank you for your attention.