

Address by the Organizer at the Opening Ceremony
of the International Union for Quaternary Research, XIX Congress

Takashi Onishi
President of Science Council of Japan

Monday, July 27, 2015
Century Hall, Nagoya Congress Center

Your Majesties, The Emperor and The Empress,
Mr. Shunichi Yamaguchi, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy,
Mr. Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture,
Dr. Margaret Avery, President of INQUA,
Dr. Yoshiki Saito, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the 19th INQUA, Congress,
Prof. Akira Ono, President of Japan Association for Quaternary Research,
Prof. Kohji Okumura, Chair of the INQUA, Commission of the Science Council of Japan,
Distinguished Guests, Fellow Researchers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to deliver an address as a co-organizer at the Opening Ceremony of the International Union for Quaternary Research, the 19th Congress, in the presence of Their Majesties, The Emperor and The Empress.

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

Since its establishment in 1949, with a view of promoting international exchange in science, we have deepened our ties with research institutions worldwide by hosting international conferences in Japan like this time and dispatching researchers to conferences held overseas.

We are pleased to host this international congress and welcome participants from over 70 countries and regions.

Quaternary Research has been taking leading initiatives in cross-disciplinary studies on human-nature interaction combining natural science, anthropological and archaeological sciences. Currently, there are many crucially important problems facing us, such as "global environmental changes", "climate changes", and "natural hazards". We must make progress immediately towards global sustainability and mitigation of hazard risk through international collaboration. "Future Earth" and "Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Reduction" are among our ongoing activities.

I am especially looking forward to the many splendid scientific results under the congress theme of "Quaternary Perspectives on Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Civilization". I hope that there will be

intense discussions among Quaternary researchers crossing national and regional boundaries on significant research topics, future perspectives, and international collaborations.

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

Before closing my welcome address, I would like to express my wish for the full success of this congress. In addition, I hope that your stay in Nagoya, and in Japan, will be enjoyable and memorable, and will foster a fine understanding of Japanese culture.

Thank you for your attention.