

Address by the Organizer at the Opening Ceremony
at the 31st International Congress of Psychology

Takashi Onishi
President of Science Council of Japan
Sunday, July 24, 2016
National Convention Hall, PACIFICO Yokohama

Your Imperial Highness Princess Akishino,
Ms. Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor of the City of Yokohama,
Dr. Kazuo Shigemasu, President of the Organizing Committee of the 31st
International Congress of Psychology,
Dr. Toshikazu Hasegawa, President of the Japanese Psychological Association,
Dr. Saths Cooper, President of the International Union of Psychological Science,
Distinguished Guests, Fellow Researchers, and
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed my great honor to deliver an address as a co-organizer at the opening ceremony of the 31st International Congress of Psychology in the presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Akishino.

Since its inception in 1949, Science Council of Japan has served as the representative institution of Japan's scientific communities. We have deepened our ties with science and research institutions globally by hosting international conferences in Japan and dispatching Japanese researchers to conferences held overseas.

Co-organizing important international congresses, such as the International Congress of Psychology, is one of our main international activities. We are very pleased to welcome participants from various countries and regions.

Psychology is a science focusing on human mind. At this congress, we expect that many research outcomes will be reported across various fields of psychology. Especially, it is said that one of the recent tendencies is that psychological study is making remarkable progress in cooperation with other related fields of sciences.

It is recognized more than ever today that there is a need for the natural sciences and the humanities and social sciences to work closely together in order to produce a more comprehensive knowledge base that can respond to the various challenges facing us now.

I hope that, at this congress, there will be intense discussions among psychologists beyond existing disciplines to construct better society which would bring about happier life to all the people, and its outcome will be shared widely in society.

I understand that many young scientists will take part in this Congress, and

present their research findings.

Science Council of Japan organized the so-called G-Science Academies Meeting in February this year, and compiled joint statements toward the G7 Japan 2016 Ise-Shima Summit. In the statements, we have pointed out the importance of nurturing future scientists.

I hope that this Congress will be an important opportunity to nurture scientists of the next generation, and contribute to future psychological researches as well as the progress of society.

Finally, before closing my welcome address, I would like to express my wish for the great success of this conference. In addition, I hope that you have an enjoyable and memorable stay in Yokohama with many opportunities to understand better the culture, society and people of Japan.

Thank you for your attention.