

Address by the Organizer at the Opening Ceremony of Joint meeting of the 22nd International Congress of Zoology and the 87th meeting of the Zoological Society of Japan

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President of Science Council of Japan  
Monday, November 14, 2016  
Auditorium, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University

Your Imperial Highness Prince Akishino,  
Professor Robert Baughman, Executive Vice President and Vice CEO of the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University,  
Professor Hiroyuki Takeda, President of Joint meeting of the 22nd International Congress of Zoology and the 87th meeting of the Zoological Society of Japan,  
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 Joint meeting of the 22nd International Congress of Zoology and the 87th annual meeting of the Zoological Society of Japan in the presence of His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation to Professor Zhibin Zhang, and Professor Yoshitaka Nagahama, President and Vice President of the International Society of Zoological Sciences, and also Professor Yoshitaka Oka, President of the Zoological Society of Japan and all the researchers of the zoological society for your decision to have this congress in Okinawa.

Since we started our activities 67 years ago, Science Council of Japan has served as the representative institution of Japan's scientific communities including the zoological sciences as one of indispensable scientific fields. We have deepened our ties with many science and research institutions globally by hosting international conferences in Japan and by dispatching Japanese researchers to conferences held overseas.

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

Zoology is very important for debating comprehensively taxonomy, physiology, embryology, neuroscience, reproductive biology, genomics and so on, under the circumstance that the field of biological science is likely to be segmented into each specialty. Because especially recently it has become possible to understand life phenomena peculiar to animals by using molecular biologic data and genomic sequence data, which are now stored in enormous amount, zoology is again in the limelight as a comprehensive study.

I hope that, at this congress, there will be intense discussions among zoologists 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.

Finally, 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 Okinawa with many opportunities to understand better the culture, society and people of Japan.

Thank you for your attention.