

Opening Address at the International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability

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Dr. Shamshad AKHTAR, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,  
Mr. Hirotaka ISHIHARA, the State Minister for the Cabinet Office of Japan,  
Distinguished Guests, and all the Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to today's International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability, which is co-organized by United Nations University, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability.

I am Takashi ONISHI, President of Science Council of Japan. To open today's International Conference, I would like to extend my brief opening remarks on behalf of Science Council of Japan.

Science Council of Japan was established in 1949 as the representative of Japan's science community, which embraces all the disciplines from humanities and social sciences, to life and physical sciences and engineering. The major work pillars of Science Council of Japan are "recommendations to the government and public", "establishment of networks among scientists", "promotion of scientific literacy", and "international scientific activities". Especially, the international activities cover many areas, such as interaction with other science academies in the world, working as a member of international scientific organizations, and hosting international conferences.

The International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability is one of the regular events organized by Science Council of Japan, and has been held every year since 2003 in order to discuss the global issues from various aspects and to find solutions for putting a sustainable society into practice. Every time, we have invited some distinguished scientists in Japan and from the world to have an intensive discussion. Because of this, I think that this conference has now become a platform on which we deliberate how science and technology can contribute to sustainable society in Japan.

The theme of today's conference is "Promoting Transdisciplinary Research and Multi-stakeholder Collaboration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals". Science Council of Japan has made various scientific endeavors in order to realize a sustainable society, such as issuing some policy recommendations. One of the recent examples is Future Earth. Future Earth is an international scientific program which was announced at Rio+20 (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) with the aim of addressing global problems. Future Earth is a unique program to urge scientists to cooperate with stakeholders who are not in science community. Science Council of Japan serves as a part of the Future Earth international secretariat consisting of five countries.

I am very delighted that we have a large number of participants for today's conference. Since the cooperation among many people in various fields is necessary for the achievement of the SDGs, I believe that discussions at today's conference will be another important step towards further "cooperation".

To conclude, I sincerely hope that today's conference will be fruitful for all the participants.

Today, Mr. Hirokata ISHIHARA, the State Minister of Cabinet Office of Japan, has kindly come to our conference despite his busy schedule. Now, I would like to invite State Minister ISHIHARA to give his opening remarks.

Thank you very much for your attention.