17th Conference of the Science Council of Asia
Closing Remarks by President, Prof. Takashi Onishi
Pasay City, Republic of the Philippines / 16 June 2017

Distinguished researchers,
Fellow scientists,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon, I am Takashi Onishi, the President of Science Council of Japan. SCJ serves as the Secretariat of SCA, and it is our great honor to be able to contribute to SCA's activities.

We are now finishing our program of the exciting event this year. For the past three days, more than 455 distinguished scientists and researchers from the thirteen of Asian countries have had intensive discussions under the theme of "Science, Technology, and Innovation for Inclusive Development". It was indeed a wonderful time to attend the sessions. And I was very much impressed with the splendid presentations and good discussions. Thank you very much for your active and constructive participation.

This Conference covered many issues relating to the applications of sciences. We discussed re-engineering of research towards inclusive growth. We also discussed environmental studies and climate change, health problems, gender issues, disaster risk reduction, and so forth.

As you know, we now need to tackle various global challenges, such as environmental problems, health problems, large-scale natural disasters. Furthermore, the Philippines and other Asian countries seek for sustainable and balanced economic growth. This means that it is necessary to solve these complicated problems simultaneously, which are interconnected to each other. Through this Conference, I have learnt that we need to create a new eco-system which can involve multi-stakeholders in our society. Besides, I have also recognized that we need to share the latest knowledge of science and technology beyond existing disciplines in order to improve health situation and reduce disaster risk in Asia.

I must emphasize that these outcomes of this Conference are very much relevant not only to Asia but also to the rest of the world. As you know, in 2015, "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030", "United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", and "Paris Agreement at COP21" were adopted by international forums. It means that the importance of science and technology further increases all over the world in order to meet

these international goals.

Especially, Asian countries, or SCA member countries are situated in very diverse geographical location, and challenges facing us are also complicated and wide-ranging. Therefore, I believe that the knowledge derived from this conference will be useful to strengthen the contribution of science to society not only in Asia but also in the world.

In this opportunity, I must appreciate all the efforts made by the National Research Council of the Philippines. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines for your generous support. Especially, I would like to say many thanks to:
Dr. Fortunato T. DELA PEÑA, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology of Republic of the Philippines,
Professor Christina A. Binag, President of National Research Council of the Philippines, NRCP, and
Professor Edgardo D. Gomez, Former President of NRCP, and Vice President of SCA
for your strong leadership.

I would like to say "Thank you" and "Congratulations" to the success of the conference. I would like to ask you to join me to give a round of applause for scientists in the Philippines and all the staff of this event.

Furthermore, I would like to appreciate kind support of Professor Aminul Islam, President of SCA, and Professor Vijaya Kumar, Immediate-Past President of SCA. It is unfortunate that Professor Islam could not attend this Conference.

Finally I would like to introduce that the 18th Conference of the Science Council of Asia and its General Assemble will be held in Japan under the leadership of Professor Aminul Islam. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Japan next year.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.