

Address by the Organizer at the Opening Ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> Congress of  
the International Commission for Optics

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President of Science Council of Japan

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Keio Plaza Hotel

Your Majesties, The Emperor and Empress,  
Your Excellency, Mr. Masaji Matsuyama, Minister of State for Science and  
Technology Policy,  
Your Excellency, Ms. Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo Prefecture,  
Prof. Makoto Gonokami, President of The University of Tokyo,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great honor to deliver an address as a co-organizer at the Opening  
Ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Commission for Optics, in  
the presence of Their Majesties, The Emperor and Empress.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof.  
Yasuhiko Arakawa, President of International Commission for Optics and the  
General Chair of the organizing committee, and Prof. Kennedy Reed, President-  
designate of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, who really  
contributed to the great success of this Congress.

Science Council of Japan is a representative institution of Japan's scientific  
communities in all kinds, from Humanities to Engineering, including Life  
Sciences and Physical 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 and dispatching researchers to conferences held abroad.

We are very pleased to host this international congress and welcome participants from many countries and regions.

We use various kinds of optical instruments including cameras and displays in our daily life. And when we send e-mails or browse web pages, we unconsciously use optical fibers, semiconductor lasers, and other photonic devices. These instruments and devices have been invented and developed as consequences of long-lasting research in the fields of optics and photonics, which are the subjects of this conference. I think that optics and photonics are vital sources for technological innovations that make our lives more comfortable and better, as well as they are the important fundamental academic research fields.

As a co-organizer I hope that there will be intense discussions crossing national and regional boundaries on significant research topics, future perspectives, and international collaborations.

I am also delighted that this congress will be an occasion to share the meaning and importance of optics and photonics 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 Tokyo, and in Japan, will be enjoyable and memorable, and will foster a fine understanding of Japan.

Thank you for your attention.