

Message from President

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President, Science Council of Japan
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Since I was reelected in October last year, I am serving as President of SCJ in the 23rd Term. We obtained a brilliant results in 22nd Term in such themes as supporting reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquakes, enhancing research integrity in scientific research, promoting international academic activities with ICSU for Future Earth program and so on, deliberating safe nuclear energy utilization ranging from nuclear power plants to nuclear wastes, proposing the expansion of renewable energy use, improving the quality of university education, disseminating information from academies to society in emergency and cooperating with international academic organizations and overseas national academies. When I had an opportunity to report the outputs of the 22nd term in the general assembly of SCJ in October, I introduced those results based on evidences, although the available evidences were limited to acceptance of our recommendations by the Government and the reaction in the society through watching the frequency of SCJ appearances in newspaper articles. It was shown that our presence was increasing with the evidence that the 22nd term was ranked at the third place in the frequency of appearances for all the articles after the 20th term and 13th term and at the first place for the only editorials.

We already gave a start to the 23rd term of SCJ. There are many committees already working. Most of them are basically continuations from the previous term, but some of them newly started in this term. On top of this, we published the new result of our activities in this term: we released the joint statement of four organizations on the scientific research integrity, entitled “**Joint Statement for Enhancing the Integrity of Scientific Research**” (<http://www.scj.go.jp/en/pdf/kohyo-23-261211e.pdf>) both in English and Japanese at the same time. It was published in December 11th last year by four organizations, consisting of national, public and private university associations and SCJ probably as the first joint trial in the history based on the cooperation between all the universities in Japan and SCJ. The statement showed the determination of the four organization to deal

with problems related to inappropriate use of research fund as well as unethical research methods based on the recognition that those issues still appeared in recent years although universities in Japan showed good performance in scientific research. Pointing out the importance of investigation under the third party involvement in any questionable cases should they occur and preventive measures to be taken before they may occur, it showed our determination to take a collaborative and mutual cooperation including requiring all personnel to complete specific educational programs for enhancing research integrity. SCJ has been dealing with enhancing research integrity for years especially since having published a revised version of “Code of Conduct for Scientists” in January, 2013. We will strengthen our activities for enhancing integrity further with this epoch-making joint statement of four organizations.

Another attempt we newly began too in this term is a deliberation for making a recommendation on the 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan, which will be officially made by the Government for five years from 2016. We are still under discussion in the committee consisting of our council members and members with a wide range of expertise including those who are engaged in the committees organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or by Council for Science, Technology and Innovation. I personally observe that it is appropriate for science and technology policies in Japan to put its great concerns on how the results being returned to society through adding new term of innovation to science and technology policies. At the same time, I believe that it is also important to stress the necessity of multi-layer development of scientific research through mobilizing more talented people in conducting scientific research and appealing that the promotion of basic research in universities and public and private research institutions eventually produces practical results of research and development because of strengthening the basis of scientific research activities.

I became President of a university in Aichi Prefecture and recognized that citizen’s consciousness on disaster risk reduction is strong in the Pacific coastal area from Shizuoka to Kochi Prefectures responding to the very severe simulation result of damages caused by Nankai Trough Earthquake and Tsunami. SCJ published “A Guideline for the SCJ Activities in Emergency” in February last year. I would like to put this into operation establishing a

cooperative relations with scientific organizations which are concerned about disaster reduction.

We were very happy to hear that three Japanese researchers received the Nobel Prize in Physics last year. It was a great contribution to the human society and brought about a tremendous ripple effect of upgrading the level of scientific research in the country. Therefore, we have to stimulate the society to be interested in cutting-edge research activities some of which are shown in our Large-scale Research Plans to produce more high-level prize winners.

SCJ will play more important role from now on in its international activities because SCJ or members of SCJ were elected as members of leading committees in all major international academic organizations. We will have an international conference on disaster risk reduction organized by UN, ICSU, the University of Tokyo and SCJ in January, UN-WCDRR in Sendai in March, and G-Science conference in Japan next year. We try to disseminate our activities appropriately to the world taking these opportunities when the world watches what we are doing.

Last but not least, I would like to mention that the Young Academy of SCJ will start functioning soon. Since it took some time to fix the procedures, it will have its first meeting early this year. I would expect members of the Young Academy to work for improving unstable conditions in which young scientists are situated in this country and also create opportunities in which young scientists in Japan play more active roles globally.