

Closing Address

International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability 2017
— Global Forum on Science and Technology for Disaster Resilience 2017 —

November 25th, 2017

Professor Juichi Yamagiwa

President, Science Council of Japan

Your Excellency Dr. Glasser, Your Excellency. Dr. Han, Your Excellency. Mr. Okonogi,
Distinguished guests, Fellow researchers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to close International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability 2017—Global Forum on Science and Technology for Disaster Resilience 2017 —.

On behalf of Co-Host Organizations, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the participants for your enthusiastic discussions, creative contributions, and tireless efforts for consensus building. Based upon the reports and summary in this morning and the very thoughtful and encouraging keynotes and high-level panel messages in this afternoon, we have adopted the Tokyo Statement 2017 and the seven Policy Briefs. And we have just received the strong endorsement from the Minister, Mr. Okonogi.

Disasters can suddenly deprive us of our peaceful daily life and sometimes even collapse prosperity at a country. Therefore, enhancing preparedness for disasters is indispensable to protect the safe, stable life and prosperity of people and countries. Living in one of the countries frequently suffering from natural hazards, we Japanese understand the disaster risks of natural hazards very well. However, as an old saying goes “Danger past, God forgotten”, we often forget to prepare for natural hazards as time passes ever after severe disaster experience. Therefore, we need to keep reminding ourselves that science and technology must play a leading role in not only finding effective measures to reduce disaster risks, but also incorporating them into society to maintain high resilience. This Forum has discussed the role of science and technology in disaster risk reduction and how to convey the results across society.

As Prof. Onishi introduced at the beginning of the High-level Panel, 7 Working Groups, 21 Co-chairs, 150 Panelists and Discussants from 48 countries and regions have been working together to prepare for facilitating productive discussions before and during the Forum. This means that we have a well-coordinated Core Team who can lead our science and technology communities and the society to go forward. The Task will go on. The world is watching what solutions scientists, engineers and experts can come up with and whether they can implement them in cooperation with all of the stakeholders. And I am sure, all of the participants, gathering together today, can verify certain solutions.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the local supporters for this Forum, including;

- National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED);
- Public Works Research Institute (PWRI); and
- My Council's Secretariat.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please enjoy one of the most beautiful seasons of Tokyo and have a safe and comfortable trip to Sendai or back to your country.

Thank you.