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Science Council of Japan (SCJ) discusses important issues concerning science as a representative organization of Japanese scientist community subsuming humanities, social science, life sciences, natural science, and engineering field and helps solve such issues. Above all, SCJ has performed examinations in the wide range of "the construction of the sustainable society" as scientific study and has been organizing "International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability".

The Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011 raised an extremely serious problem for Japanese scientists. It is important for the scientist community to discuss the detailed proposals for the future inside and outside Japan in order to meet the needs to build the sustainable society after the huge earthquake. Therefore, the theme of this year's conference is "Wisdom for Recovery from Disasters and Risk Control". Accordingly, the conference this year will be made up of three sessions.

In session 1, "Social and Economic Impacts of Huge Natural Disasters", the social and economic systems dealt with huge natural disasters that occurred not only in Japan but also in other parts of the world will be discussed. In session 2, "Problems and Solutions for the Food System and Public Health in Huge Natural Disasters", the problems and solutions of restoration and reconstruction in the damaged area will be discussed from the perspective of science. And in session 3, "Restoration from the Huge Natural Disasters, and Creating Cultural Landscapes for the Sustainable Society", the reconstruction from natural disaster, technology, and policy will be discussed then the possibility of sustainability based on the cultural landscapes will be discussed as well.

This year is the turning point of ten years from SCJ's first conference on Sustainability in 2003. It is a great opportunity to look back toward the international activities that SCJ has performed and to plan for the next ten years. In order to do so, SCJ invited two speakers for key notes today. First speaker is Professor Kiyoshi Kurokawa who served as the president of SCJ for three years, established "International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability", and lead the international activities of SCJ. The second speaker is Professor Mohamed H. A. Hassan who is the leader of international scientific academy as the co-chair of IAP.

Please allow me to conclude this address by expressing our earnest hope that today's conference will prove fruitful and meaningful for everyone present. With these few words, I conclude my message as the representative of Science Council of Japan, and express my gratitude to the United Nations University and Nikkei Inc. for their support.