

Welcome Speech by Juichi Yamagiwa, Dr. of Science, President of Kyoto University

Distinguished guests and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the UNESCO International Symposium on Scientific, Technological and Policy Innovations for Improved Water Quality Monitoring in the Post 2015 SDGs Framework, 2015 in Kyoto University.



First, I would like to give my sincere gratitude and respect for the successful contributions of delegates from all over the world.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the exclusive delegates today.

Mr. Patrick Okafor, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO;

Dr. Sarantuyaa Zandaryaa of UNESCO-IHP; and many of the international participants from all over the world.

Thank you all for your visit to Kyoto University.

Water is essential for all living creatures. Providing safe drinking water for all becomes one of the important Sustainable Development Goals. In Goal 6.1, it is stated that by 2030, it is our hope to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. To secure this goal, dissemination of improved skills in water quality monitoring, both for drinking water, and wastewater is essential. Kyoto University has contributed in this aspect throughout the establishment of a mutual collaboration round-table from different faculty and institutes.

Kyoto is renowned for the Kyoto Protocol in UNFCCC. However, it is an important city for global water issues as well. Some of you might have attended the Seventh World Water Forum in Tegu this April. Looking back to the beginning of this century, the Third World Water Forum was held in Kyoto, together with Shiga and Osaka in 2003, when the global water security issue was widely discussed.

Since its foundation in 1897, Kyoto University has worked to cultivate academic freedom under a spirit of self-reliance and self-respect, and to open up new horizons in creative

scholarly endeavors. The university has also sought to contribute to a peaceful coexistence across the global community.

The university was established to promote science and technology independent from the central government. Our academic style is deeply imbued with the rich cultural heritage of Kyoto City. As you may know, Kyoto City and its surrounding areas, including Uji City, hold seventeen World Cultural Heritage Sites, and many other historic sites, such as very ancient temples and shrines, including the famous Golden Pavilion (鹿苑寺・金閣寺). One reason for this rich heritage is that Kyoto was the capital of Japan for over a thousand years from 794 to 1868, after which the capital was moved to Tokyo during the Meiji Restoration.

Kyoto University's involvement in the region's rich cultural milieu is no doubt one factor in our ability to produce scholars of an exceptional standard, including nine Nobel Laureates in science and technology fields (among them, 7 graduated from Kyoto University (including the 3rd high school), two of them are professor and emeritus professor of Kyoto University). The first of our scholars to win a Nobel Prize was Professor Hideki Yukawa, who won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1949. He was, in fact, Japan's very first Nobel laureate. In October 2012, Professor Shinya Yamanaka, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine. Last year, Professor Isamu Akasaki, who graduated from our Faculty of Science, was just awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014 together with two Japanese Laureates.

Building on its academic heritage and traditions, Kyoto University is focusing on extending our educational framework through the establishment of the Graduate School for Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability (GSAIS) and a new integrated facility for international graduate study (Higashi-Ichijo building). Kyoto University is now also promoting the "Kyoto Academy Initiative" to integrate civic education with higher education, creating a "Citizen's campus" out of the city. We have been involved in collaborations with several UN agencies, especially with UNESCO established in 2012. Having this opportunity in organizing the UNESCO symposium on water quality in Kyoto University, I sincerely hope to provide fruitful outcomes which may provide a great contribution in securing safe drinking water for all.

Thank you very much.

Juichi Yamagiwa, Dr. of Science
President of Kyoto University

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