

Asia-Europe Physics Summit (ASEPS) 'Physics towards Sciences Innovations'

理事長 開会式 ご挨拶

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エポカルつくば

Thank you very much for your kind introduction.

Good morning everybody. I am Motoyuki Ono, President of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. I am very pleased to offer a few remarks at the opening of this Asia-Europe Physics Summit.

I'd like to start by extending our hearty appreciation to the organizers of this summit, the Association of the Asia-Pacific Physical Society and the European Physical Society. A very special word of thanks goes to Prof. Mitsuaki Nozaki and Dr. Denis Perret-Gallix, who have planned and coordinated the entire preparation process. I also wish to thank CNRS and KEK for their support.

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science was established in 1932 with an imperial endowment. JSPS is now Japan's core research funding agency. JSPS performs selection and distribution functions of the grants for scientific research, which has a budget of approximately 240 billion yen, or about 2 billion euro.

JSPS has a long history of supporting scientific exchanges with its counterpart organizations around the world. It was in 1973 when JSPS signed an agreement for conducting joint research projects with CNRS. That agreement pioneered the way to establishing cooperative programs with other European countries. As for Asian countries, JSPS has been supporting individual exchanges between Japanese and Asian researchers since 1976. In 1979, we began

supporting collaborations between universities in Japan and Asian countries. Since then, we have over about four decades been building our partnerships with other countries, and they are now one of JSPS's most valuable assets.

The ASEPS aims at building a balanced partnership among the three pivotal centers in the realm of physical science: Europe, Asia and America. The object being to more effectively contribute to the solution of global issues. Given JSPS's long history of supporting academic collaboration with Asia and Europe, I am more than happy to support this initiative.

In Japan, we are experiencing difficult conditions with both our economy and national budget. We are still feeling the strong after-effects of the recession that swept the world in 2008. Looking back over history, however, times of economic downturn have always given rise to scientific innovation. In eras like these, it becomes all the more important to forge coalitions within the academic community that transcend national borders. Doing so, I believe, will be vital to overcoming the turmoil and hardship currently plaguing the global community.

With such a perspective, I look forward to even more active Euro-Asian collaboration in physics as an outcome of this summit. I hope to see this initiative become a model of how Euro-Asian collaboration can lead the world in expanding the scientific frontiers.

Finally, I would like to thank you all again for finding time in your busy schedules to participate in this summit.

Thank you.