

RIKEN Europe Office Anniversary Symposium **Shaping future society with cutting-edge STI**

Opening remarks by Dr. Shigeo Koyasu

Dear Ambassador Nakane, Prof. Hall, Mr. Paquet, Prof. Wheeler, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for us to welcome you all to the anniversary symposium of RIKEN Europe Office. In November 2018, we opened our first representative office in Europe here in Brussels. One year has passed since then, and we thought that it would be an ideal timing to organize a symposium to present RIKEN as a whole to the European audience.

RIKEN is Japan's most comprehensive research institute with 3,500 scientists, technicians and administrators working in a wide array of research fields. Since the inception more than 100 years ago, RIKEN has been contributing to the society through the cutting-edge research and translation of the results into value. Our mission includes to lead the world in achieving new research and development results through scientific excellence, to become a hub for innovation based on science and technology, and to serve as a focal point for global brain circulation.

RIKEN's activities can be divided into four main categories: the Cluster for Pioneering Research where individual researchers pursue curiosity-driven research, Strategic Research Centers, Research Infrastructure Centers, and the Cluster for Science, Technology and Innovation Hub. All the activities are presented as posters put onto the walls around you and I invite you to have a look at them during the breaks to get an overview, and to interact with the researchers and research administrators from RIKEN. I must emphasize that these four groupings interact in an integrated, yet open manner, but for the event today, we are going to focus mostly on the strategic research, and research infrastructure centers. That is because scientific research and innovation are becoming more and more considered to be essential for tackling global challenges and responding to the societal needs. For these, concerted actions with clear focus and efficient use

of resources are necessary. In the first Part of the programme, we will present three of our Strategic Research Centers, their vision and activities.

The Japanese government has started working on the next Science and Technology Basic Plan, to cover the period of 5 years starting from 2021. In Europe, the European Union is finalizing the design of the forthcoming Framework Programme, namely Horizon Europe, also for the commencement in 2021. There are of course many more important initiatives taken by countries and regions. It is a great honour and also timely that we have Mr. Jean-Eric Paquet from the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation to talk about Horizon Europe, then Prof. Tim Wheeler to present the UK approach for the international research and innovation. I look forward to the panel discussion afterwards, to see how research performing organizations like RIKEN fit into the overall picture and can make contribution to those existing and future programmes.

In terms of collaborative research and innovation, we take diversity as essential for the results. My colleague Dr. Kotani will talk about our ambition and strategy for international cooperation as well as the role of the Europe Office in the beginning of the second Part and we have our strong European partners, Max-Planck Institute from Germany, Karolinska Institute from Sweden and CEA from France, to elaborate their views on the merit of international cooperation, especially with RIKEN.

In addition to the celebration of one-year anniversary since the establishment of the RIKEN Europe Office, we are glad that our event is held to mark the 10 years anniversary since the signing of the Japan-EU agreement on cooperation in science and technology. Ambassador Nakane will talk more on that in the following opening remarks.

It was in 1911, six years before RIKEN was created as the institute of physical and chemical research, that the 1st Solvay conference was held at this Hotel. You probably noticed the pictures of renowned scientists including Marie Curie and

Albert Einstein at the entrance to the hotel. The series of Solvay conferences then became a cradle of quantum theories and other scientific fields. We are delighted to be able to hold our anniversary event in this historic venue. I hope today's symposium will be a trigger for further fruitful collaborations with European partners and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your participation and enjoy the symposium.