

## **Opening remarks for WMRIF General Assembly**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. To those who join as new members, welcome to the World Materials Research Institute Forum, and to those who met in Berlin 2 years ago, very glad to see you again. Anyway, I am very delighted to have all of you here today.

As President of this forum, let me give you a few words for the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Materials Research Institute Forum General Assembly. First of all, on behalf of the forum, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Eric Amis, Dr. Stephan Freiman and other NIST colleagues for hosting this conference, including the symposium on Monday and Tuesday.

Nearly 5 years ago, I proposed the idea to organize this type of meeting. At that time, I was struggling to identify NIMS, which was established in 2001. Maybe because I spent most of my time in a university, I believe that we should emphasize the mission and the strategy of a national institute, and the difference from universities, otherwise the government will not recognize the presence of NIMS soon or later, which means that we will not be able to survive. So, I had been very interested in the situations of national research institutes specializing materials science and engineering in the world.

And we organized the First World Materials Research Institute Forum in Tsukuba, Japan, in June 2005. Presidents of 15 research institutes from 8 countries joined it to share the information on their missions, R&D scopes, organizations, funding mechanisms, and so on.

The first conference was very successful, and 2 years later, June 2007, the Second World Materials Research Institute Forum Conference was held in Berlin, hosted by BAM, in which 31 institutes from 21 countries participated. We established the Founding Declaration and the Constitution of the forum, and set up 7 working groups. Besides, we decided to hold a symposium on materials for energy and environment, which should be the most prioritized issue.

Actually, we have just held the Symposium on Materials Challenge for Clean Energy in the first half of this event. And now we are starting the latter half, the 3<sup>rd</sup> WMRIF General Assembly. I hear that we have 43 member institutes from 21 countries. We will share updated information on our R&D activities also including the issues of energy and environment.

I hope our discussion will be fruitful to all of you.

Thank you very much for your attention and let's start!