Welcome Address

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the 1st International Symposium on Advanced Science Research, ASR-2000, "Advances in Neutron Scattering Research" held in the last year of the 20th century.

On behalf of JAERI, Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, it is my great pleasure to address these opening remarks of ASR-2000 to participants from all over the world. JAERI is pleased to sponsor this symposium, and I would like to express my thanks to the members of our research community for their cooperation as well as to the organizing committee for their efforts in preparing and organizing the symposium.

Advanced Science Research Center was founded in 1993 and produced a very substantial body of research under the first director, Professor Muneyuki Date. Our second director, Professor Hiroshi Yasuoka, has proposed to hold a series of international symposia to promote a world-wide exchange and discussion of research results. I am very pleased to be here to initiate the first symposium of this series.

As you already know, JAERI pursues many branches of research related to atomic energy, here in Tokai as well as at many other locations in Japan. At Tokai site, we have three research reactors in operation. These are used for nuclear safety, neutron beam utilization, and medical use of BNCT (Boron Neutron Capture Therapy). Among them the JRR-3M, modified Japan Research Reactor No. 3, is dedicated to neutron beam utilization, and especially to neutron scattering research. This year is the 10th anniversary of its inception.

JRR-3M has been used by the scientists from universities, national laboratories, industry, as well as by JAERI's own staff members, in a variety of research fields such as physics, chemistry, materials science, engineering, polymer science and biology. Utilization has grown to beyond ten times as great as that of ten years ago. This increase in utilization has been brought about by the applicability of neutrons as a microscopic probe for both structural and dynamical studies of materials.

To meet increasing demand for neutron beam utilization, JAERI and KEK (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization) have been proposing a joint project of high-intensity proton accelerators here in Tokai. I expect that by 2006, the project will provide the best neutron scattering facility in the world and will contribute to the scientific needs of the broad scientific community, to industry, and to the international scientific community as well.

Finally, we welcome the participation of everyone in the discussions of neutron scattering research results this week. We hope for a very interactive conference which will not only help you to formulate your own research plans, but will also help to determine a productive future direction for neutron scattering research in the 21st century.

Thank you for your attention.

Kenichi Murakami
President,
Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute