

## FOREWORD



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### Dear Colleagues and Friends

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome everyone to Tsukuba Global Science Week (TGSW) 2018, now for the 9th year running.

The history of the University of Tsukuba extends back 145 years when it was founded by the Meiji government as the first institution of higher education and premier normal school. A little over forty years ago in October 1973, our university relocated from Tokyo to Tsukuba City where it was reborn as a comprehensive institution of higher education.

Since its establishment, the University of Tsukuba has aimed for interdisciplinary education and research and to be a university open to society and the world. In accordance with these principles, we are delighted to host TGSW, which gathers together a number of participants not only from a diverse range of academic fields but also from many different countries. What started out as an event focused on a single academic discipline, TGSW now offers sessions from a wide variety of fields ranging from the hard sciences to the humanities with prominent researchers from more than 30 different countries.

TGSW is a showcase of world class researches carried out by our faculty members jointly with fellow scientists throughout the globe, including those associated with public and quasi-public institutions based in Tsukuba Science City and our partner universities outside Japan. But TGSW is more than that. The radical transformation of a globalized society has brought about a range of global challenges - food crisis, energy issues, environmental risks, never-ending wars, poverty, and the list goes on. These could be solved only by trans-border collaboration for innovation, so that the greater community of scientists, regardless of their areas of specialty, citizenship, ethnicity, gender, faith, and world views, must get together and collaborate closely. TGSW can serve as an invaluable forum for exchanging views on how to meet those challenges in a way that defies all kinds of traditionally conceived barriers.

The scope of TGSW is indeed broad and far reaching. By bringing together internationally renowned researchers and young aspiring researchers and students based in Tsukuba and much beyond, it covers a whole range of topics, promoting lively exchanges, regardless of borders and disciplines. It also serves as an ideal international networking opportunity for trans-disciplinary, trans-organizational and trans-border collaborations.

Building on last year's theme of "Science for Social Innovations," we have decided this year on the theme of "Driving Sustainable Development" to explore the question of how science and technology can contribute to achieving SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), which are a collection of 17 global goals defined in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda.

I would like to thank all of you for your participation and hope that the range of sessions on offer will set off meaningful dialogues among all of us concerned. The continuing success of this conference means that planning can proceed with confidence for the event next year.