

Remarks for H.E. Kaoru Ishikawa
Canada-Japan Nanotechnology Workshop
University of Waterloo
November 21, 2011 at 08:45 am

The Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology;
Dr. George Dixon, Vice President of the University of Waterloo;
Dr. Arthur Carty, Executive Director of the Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology;
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great privilege for me to be a part of the 2011 Canada-Japan Nanotechnology Workshop and to bring greetings on behalf of the Government of Japan. As many of you know, 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of science and technology cooperation between Japan and Canada, and I am certain that this workshop – with its focus on the promising field of nanotechnology – will ensure that this cooperation is strong and future-oriented.

As we saw with the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11th of this year, there is a need to balance the mankind with the force of Mother Nature. Indeed, on this and many other fronts, I humbly believe that science and technology will serve as a catalyst that will ensure the sustainability of our human race. Our efforts in the various fields of science and technology should not be limited by geopolitical borders, but rather, they should be led by the collaborative efforts of the bright minds of today and tomorrow, irrespective of their race or ethnicity.

I am very pleased to see this type of collaboration taking place between Japan and Canada. From sustainable energy technology to stem cell research, our two countries are working together to create solid results.

And of course, nanotechnology is no exception.

With our various partnerships between science and technology institutions and universities – and the many more that are planned for the future – Japan has committed to advancing nanotechnology with Canada, one of the world renowned leaders in the field.

It is of my humble opinion that this type of partnership is made possible by the fact that our two countries have a long history of building and promoting democracy, maintaining strong governance and legal predictability, and cherishing freedom of speech and freedom of expression. These values help spur innovation.

Today, as respected nanotechnology researchers and scientists from both coasts of Pacific Ocean come together to participate in this year's workshop, I sincerely hope that the results of the many discussions will further enhance our partnership and serve as a model of future oriented cooperation for other countries to follow. Effective cooperation can be achieved by enhanced mutual understanding of current bilateral cooperation and through increased sharing of issues and concerns. In doing so, it is important to set priority areas for discussion, so that we can find concrete ways to enhance future nanotechnology cooperation.

I thank you for your kind attention.