

Welcome Address of Geographical Survey Institute



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. My name is Aoyama, Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. It is a great pleasure to be given an opportunity to say a few words on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the second General Meeting of International VLBI Service.

First of all I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Professor Wolfgang Schlüter, chairman of IVS, and all other attendants, for taking time and effort to come a long way to take part in this meeting. I am most delighted to be able to wel-

come you here in Japan to the second meeting of IVS, which is steadily moving forward since its establishment in 1999, followed by the first meeting in 2000 in Germany.

In Japan, the Survey Act and other related laws and ordinances were revised last year and accordingly our geodetic reference system is to be changed to an international one this April. We greatly owe to the knowledge from the space geodetic technologies, VLBI for instance, in establishing this kind of highly precise global reference frame. I find it very fortunate for us to host the second general meeting of IVS in Japan at this time of most critical change for our geodetic activities.

The world is getting increasingly smaller in this "IT era." VLBI technology is based on internationally collaborative observations of radio sources in outer space, far beyond the Galaxy, by two stations several thousand kilometers apart.

I believe that the international scientific collaboration as VLBI promoted at this scale is an eloquent symbol of peace and harmony of the whole humanity.

Such efforts would be even more significant if we could better understand the phenomena of the earth and thus contribute to the environment-friendly sustainable development of the globe.

It is my sincere desire that study and application of VLBI further progresses as a result of active information exchanges and discussions at this second general meeting of IVS.

Incidentally today, February 4th is the very beginning of spring according to the old Japanese calendar. I hope you will enjoy a pleasant change of the seasons, from winter to spring during your stay in Japan.

Finally I wish you a success of the meeting as well as in your personal careers.

Thank you for your attention.

Toshiki Aoyama
Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs,
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport