For Immediate Attention of the Media

July 20, 2017

Miraikan – The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

## Global meeting of leaders steering science centers around the world, to be held in Asia for the first time

# Science Centre World Summit 2017 (SCWS 2017)

## Key sessions, invited speakers, and a parallel event from November 15 – 17 confirmed

Miraikan - the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan; Mamoru Mohri, Chief Executive Director) has confirmed the key sessions, invited speakers, as well as the parallel event that will be held during the Science Centre World Summit 2017 (SCWS 2017) to be held in Asia for the first time, for three days from November 15 to 17 (Wednesday to Friday), 2017.

The Science Centre World Summit (SCWS) is a global meeting convened once every three years, bringing together many leaders who are steering science centres around the world, as well as delegates from the education, policymaking, and corporate sectors. At the summit, delegates discuss and put forth recommendations about civic involvement in science and technology, as well as the role that science centers should play amidst a rapidly changing society.

The Science Centre World Summit 2017 (SCWS 2017) is organized around the central theme of "Connecting the World for a Sustainable Future." The discussions, undertaken in various sessions, will cover a wide range of regional to global issues concerning the strategy that science centers can take to transform and progress toward a new model in cooperation with organizations from other sectors, and to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society. Furthermore, as science centers are positioned as an important platform toward the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015, this Summit aims to consider ways of deepening understanding and generating creativity as an approach to problem-solving.

World-leading experts have been invited to speak at the Summit, including Mr. Tadao Ando, an architect who is active worldwide, Professor Shinya Yamanaka, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, Professor Johan Rockström, an internationally recognized scientist in the field of sustainability research, and Lord Krebs Kt, MA, DPhil, FRS, FMedSci, Hon DSc, who worked on resolving BSE issues as the first Chairman of the UK Food Standards Agency.

In conjunction with the Summit, a temporary exhibition titled "Beautiful Rice" will be held from November 11, 2017 (Saturday). This exhibition aims to disseminate information widely about science and technology as a means for building sustainable agriculture and in turn, sustainable societies, through the perspective of rice, which is the basis of food culture in Asia.

To bring about the realization of a sustainable society, it is vital for individuals to change and acquire new habits and practices. Through the discussions held at this Summit, recommendations are put forth on what science centers can do to connect personal lives with science in concrete ways and to promote change, as well as on the roles that science centers can fulfill to uncover new relationships between individuals and science and technology.

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*Overview*

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| Official name: | Science Centre World Summit 2017 (SCWS2017) |
| Period: | November 15 (Wed.) to 17 (Fri.), 2017 |
| Venue: | Miraikan (2-3-6 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan) |
| Special webpage: | https://scws2017.org/ |
| Organiser | Miraikan – The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation |
| Co-organiser: | Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology -Japan |
| Programme Organiser: | ASPAC, ASTC, Ecsite, NAMES, RedPOP, SAASTEC |
| Sponsors: | Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Kaneka Corporation, Ricoh Company, Ltd., Kao Corporation, Japan Greentea Co., Ltd. |
| In association with: | Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Science Council of Japan, The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, The Japan Foundation, KEIDANREN (Japan Business Federation) American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), EuroScience |

*Interested participants are required to register in advance and pay an attendance fee. (Please refer to the website for details.)

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## <SCWS 2017: Key sessions>

More than 40 sessions will be held covering three topics, and the audience will also be involved in discussions. (The following is only an excerpt of the sessions. Please refer to the website for details on all sessions.)

### 1. Global Sustainability

Global Sustainability ; what is the plan for science centre action
Systems Thinking for Sustainability
Visualizing STEAM Data in Support of Smart Decision Making
Awareness to Actions! - Global Changes and Future Earth
Communicating Natural Disasters, Man-made Hazards and Risks

### 2. Co-design for Transformation

Connecting and Empowering Youth
Communicating Big Science
Co-design in Science and Technology
Open Doors for Global Sustainable Activities: Collaboration Between Industry and Science Centres
Science Centres for 2026 and Beyond.

### 3. Personal Engagement with Science

Collective Engagement: How innovation and partnerships are reshaping engagement
Developing Science Centres in Africa for Equality of Opportunity and Global Sustainability
Science, Politics and Social Media
When Do Museums Make a Difference?
Connecting Socially and Educationally Vulnerable People with Science and Education

In addition to the abovementioned topics, sessions will also be held on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Gender Equality and Reduced Inequalities
How Science Centres Contribute to the Sustainable Future of Cities
Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

## <SCWS 2017: Key invited speakers>

World-leading experts from sectors including architecture, life sciences, global environment, and food, will present talks at the Summit. Based on their respective perspectives and experiences, the invited speakers will give clues to the three-day discussions, and share their expectations to science centers.

Mr. Tadao Ando: Architect, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
Professor Gordon McBean: President, The International Council for Science (ICSU)
Professor Johan Rockström: Director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre／Professor of Water Systems and Global Sustainability at Stockholm University
HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan: President, The Royal Scientific Society, Jordan
Lord Krebs Kt, MA, DPhil, FRS, FMedSci, Hon DSc: Honorary Fellow and Former Principal, Jesus College, University of Oxford
Mr. Pavan Sukhdev: UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, The Founding Trustee of Green Indian States Trust (GIST), Founder & CEO of GIST Advisory, Associate Fellow of Davenport College, Yale University
Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy: Professor, Environmental Science and Policy, George Mason University
Prof. Shinya Yamanaka: Director and Professor, Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University (CiRA)

*The speakers listed above are the key invited speakers confirmed at the current point in time. The website will be updated as and when other speakers are confirmed.

## <SCWS 2017: Parallel event>

At the first Science Centre World Summit 2017 (SCWS 2017) convened in Asia, a temporary exhibition on "rice," which underpins the food culture of Japan and other parts of Asia, will be held in conjunction with the Summit. This exhibition aims to disseminate information widely about science and technology as a means for building sustainable agriculture and in turn, sustainable societies.

**<SCWS 2017: Parallel event>**
**Temporary Exhibition "Beautiful Rice"**

*Overview*

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| Exhibition Period | November 11 (Sat), 2017 – January 8 (Mon), 2018 (end date TBD) |
| Open | 10:00-17:00 |
| Venue | 1F, Communication Lobby, Miraikan |
| Closed | Tuesday (open on national holidays), November 15 and New Year holiday (December 28 to January 1) |
| Admission fee | Free of charge |
| Organizer | Miraikan - The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation |
| Supervisor | SATO Yo-Ichiro, Executive Director of National Institutes for the Humanities |

What can we do now in order to continue eating delicious rice tomorrow, in the next 100, and in the next 1,000 years? This exhibition explores the choices that we should make, and how we should use cutting-edge science and technology, taking into consideration the characteristics of the "Tsunagari system" (= A cyclical system that integrates animals, plants, and human beings), which has been developed over several thousands of years in rice paddies across Asia, and of modern agriculture with its high levels of productivity. This temporary exhibition embodies our hopes for lasting and sustained abundance of food for the people on Earth, and seeks to sow the seeds for the future.

**<Exhibition structure>**

**The ecosystem of "Tsunagari"**
The spirit of achieving sustained rice production without depleting natural resources lives and breathes in diverse practices, food, and faith, which are rooted in the climate of the rice cultivation areas in various parts of Asia. This section introduces specific examples of human wisdom and activities, based on an understanding of the cyclical system that integrates human, animals, and plants through rice paddies as the "Tsunagari system".

**Lost "Tsunagari"**
Modern agriculture brought about the realization of a level of productivity that can sustain larger populations, through means such as farm mechanization and the effective utilization of chemical fertilizers. This section focuses on a recognition of the current situation, including issues such as over-dependence on chemical fertilizers, and the deterioration of biodiversity in rice paddies.

**Re-design "Tsunagari"**
This section explores the direction of sustainable food production in the 21st century, in consideration of the structure of modern society with advancements in urbanization alongside with rising global population. It focuses on introductions to science and technology and approaches for reaching a breakthrough, from the perspective of symbiosis between Earth and human beings.

**What kind of rice do you want to eat?**
As individuals, we want to obtain delicious rice easily, don't we? While the Earth and human beings are also of great importance, we also place value on personal happiness. This section prompts visitors to consider what kind of rice they want to eat as individual consumers.