

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional/Thematic Symposium on  
Broadening the Application of the Sustainability Science Approach

第2回サステイナビリティ・サイエンス・シンポジウム

秋山分析官ご挨拶メモ

Your Excellencies, distinguished experts in the field of sustainability science, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first express my sincere appreciation for the preparation of this “Regional/Thematic Symposium of the Sustainability Science Approach in support of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” by all of those who worked for this. I would also like to welcome the distinguished panelists, including Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, from University of Tokyo, former Senior Vice-Rector of the United Nations University.

As you can see from the program, the goal of this regional/thematic symposium is to discuss how to apply the sustainability science approach, which is explained as the integrated and transdisciplinary scientific approach to address the issues related to sustainable development, into UNESCO’s five regions, including Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Arab States, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the symposium, the 6 panels will discuss relevant themes to the application of the sustainability science approach to be reflected in science and social policies, such as the development of understanding of this approach by the academy, the relationship between social policy and sciences, and the involvement of different sectors.

I think that this symposium is very timely and very relevant to UNESCO because its role for sustainable development has become more important and more clearly recognized after the adaption of “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” last year (18 September, 2015). As most of you may know, SDGs is truly comprehensive and involving everyone as “no one left behind”, and I am sure that sustainability science will be one of the indispensable tools and backbones for measuring the 17 goals and 169 targets.

I am happy to note that in this project several sectors of the Secretariat of UNESCO, including Education Sector, Natural Sciences Sector, and Social and Human Sciences Sector, are collaborating inter-sectorially reflecting the cross-cutting nature of “sustainability science approach”.

In addition, I am pleased to inform you that the Japanese Government is prepared to support financially this series of symposium for the promotion of “Sustainability Science”, which will be culminated next year with the outcome to be reflected in 39C/5, the most important policy paper for materializing projects and budgets in UNESCO for 4 years.

Last but not the least, I would like to close my address with my special appreciation to Malaysian Government, and all the secretariats who are devoted to organizing this symposium, especially Dr. Salvatore ARICÒ.

Thank you for your kind listening.