

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am Hiroshi MASUHARA of National Chiao Tung University in Hsinchu.

Thank you very much for giving me a chance to propose a toast and I am honored to say a few sentences before starting our drink and dinner.

I am extremely happy to see that this meeting of Frontier Bioorganization Forum 2017 is successfully starting today. I have been working in National Chiao Tung University for longer than 9 years, while serving as evaluation committee members and advisors for several JSPS/MEXT projects. One of them is the Grant-in-Aid Scientific Research Project for Innovative Area on “Dynamic ordering of biomolecular systems for creation of integrated functions” which is directed by Prof. Kato. So it is clear that my role is to combine both nice scientist of Taiwan and Japan and to trigger this meeting and consequently excellent collaborations. Now I am giving you 2 comments about international collaborations based on my experience in Taiwan and Japan.

First is a general comment that science is indeed the activity of culture, custom, society, and human. As a Japanese researcher living and studying in Taiwan, I feel it very important and indispensable to know each other for long term and understand respective society, language, custom, and culture. That is critical for developing original scientific ideas characteristic of international collaborations.

Second is a practical comment on how we achieve effective long-term collaboration. I think potential keys are Dual Degree Program for graduate students, Double/Cross Appointment for professors in both institutions, and Double Funding in both countries. To make long story to short, I introduce successful and fruitful model cases. Prof. Koichi Kato has laboratories in Institute for Molecular Science in Okazaki and Nagoya City University and has been working with many staffs and students based on plural funds. My former student Prof. Hiroshi Uji-i has laboratories and positions in Research Institute of Electronic Sciences, Hokkaido University and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. His activity is supported by JSPS and European Research Council. Once I had one laboratory and JSPS fund in Nara Institute of Science and Technology for a few years in addition to NCTU. Now in our laboratory 3 Dual Degree Program students enjoy research in Taiwan, Japan, and Belgium. I hear similar trials are being organized in Europe, USA, Israel, and so on.

I believe long-term reliable international collaboration will be developed based on Dual

Degree Program, Double/Cross Appointment, and Double Funding and this meeting is triggering such collaboration crossing the borders of Taiwan, Korea, and Japan.

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Hiroshi MASUHARA