

His Excellency Mr. Tatsuo Kawabata  
Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology  
3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo, 100-8959 Japan

Your Excellency,

The members of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) C11 Commission on Particles and Fields would like to acknowledge the significant and distinguished contributions of Japanese scientists and Japanese scientific research projects to the field of elementary particle physics.

C11 promotes the exchange of information and views among the members of the international scientific community in the field of Particles and Fields. This field of science investigates the nature and properties of the fundamental constituents of matter and the forces acting between these constituents. In addition, the field encompasses the accelerators, detectors and techniques used in these investigations and the industrial applications of related technologies.

Scientists working in Japan have made many major contributions to our field. The discovery of neutrino mass was heralded as one of the most important discoveries in elementary particle physics during the last quarter century. The first convincing evidence for neutrino masses came from Super-Kamiokande, a Japanese experiment. The Kamiokande experiment on the other hand, the predecessor of Super-Kamiokande, detected neutrinos coming from supernova 1987a. These detected neutrinos showed that we are able to understand the science of supernova explosions. In 2002, the Japanese scientist Masatoshi Koshiba won a Nobel Prize for his leading role in the Kamiokande and Super-Kamiokande experiments.

The Japanese research center KEK and the American research center SLAC have studied the difference between the behavior of matter and antimatter at their facilities known as "B-Factories". The healthy competition between these two experiments stimulated many results in this very challenging field. In 2008, two Japanese scientists Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa won a Nobel Prize for their explanation of this matter-antimatter difference.

Each year, IUPAP C11 sponsors a small selection of the most important international conferences in the field. In 2009, our first conference on Technology and Instrumentation in Particle Physics was held in Tsukuba, Japan. The large number of scientists from the region and from around the world that participated was a tribute to the vitality of the local community. In 2010, the first IUPAP sponsored International Particle Accelerator Conference will be hosted in Kyoto.

Innovation in science and technology are essential to improving the human quality of life. The international scientific community greatly values the contributions of our colleagues in Japan to the fundamental science and admires the innovation they bring

to accelerator and detector technologies. We express our strongest support for their continuing excellent contributions to science and technology.

Sincerely,



Patricia McBride  
Chair, IUPAP Commission on Particles and Field

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