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**Kyoto University, Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics
The Symposium Commemorating Opening of the Kyoto University,
International Research Unit of Advanced Future Studies**

Date August 6th 2015 (Thu) 18 : 00 – 18 : 18

Venue COOP-INN Kyoto 202

Speaker Juichi Yamagiwa (the President, Kyoto University)

Greetings from Juichi Yamagiwa, the president



Hello, everyone.

Professor Masatoshi Murase, I've been looking forward to seeing the activities of Advanced Future Studies ever since I heard of its opening.

It has long been a tradition at Kyoto University to have people working on the frontlines of various fields get together to develop a new field in science. There are, however, a number of phenomena that are still poorly understood about humankind and the world we live in. To give an example from human evolution, which is my field of study, the reason why our ancestors began walking on two legs is still a mystery. This is an example of what is known as “emergence”. There is no other primate close to man that walks on two legs.

What made us stand up on two legs and start walking?

Only humans speak languages, but how and when we started communicating through languages still remains a mystery. In today's study, the word “merge” is used to describe such things. It is believed that things developed through different roots that merge into each other at some point to form something new. However, what specifically, is still unknown.

In the contemporary world, there are many mysterious phenomena in your field of study. I believe we live in an age where researchers are asked to approach these phenomena through shared knowledge of other fields rather than proceed with them unrevealed. To enable us do this,

technologies have been developed over time and various cases have been accessible to us. In particular, technologies to analyze big data have gained in popularity. Along with this, I believe we have to be in step with times and take steps to find other unknown phenomena.

It is no exaggeration to say that our future rests upon those engaged in Advanced Future Studies. What I expect in the future is the creation of a new theory of civilization. I believe we can achieve this by operating Advanced Future Studies on an international basis. And Kyoto is the optimal place to do just that.

For several years, I was part of a study group called “Qualia AGORA” along with our former leader, Masao Horiba, who passed away on July 14th, 2015. Our motto was “Question common knowledge and think of something new and interesting”. We provided lectures as well as our world cafe to welcome people from various fields of study. We did it with the aim of obtaining new ideas through debate and conversation.

In the process, I experienced a great many things that made me think we had found a way to find the science of the future. Professor Murase is a part of the Qualia AGORA group today and he also played a central role in planning this fantastic gathering. I thank him for making it possible for us to continue our activities and I’d like to say that I expect great things in the future from Advanced Future Studies. I cannot wait to see what they come up with. Thank you very much.