

C. N. Yang

Speech at Banquet on Last Day of Kyoto Conference
September 30, 1965

We are gathered here to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Professor Yukawa's meson theory. For me it has been a richly pleasurable and beneficial experience.

In common with all participants from outside of Japan, but perhaps more so because of the similar cultural heritage of China and Japan, I am charmed by the city and the country, and am enormously impressed by the deeply ingrained artistic sense on the one hand and the vigor, warmth and exuberance on the other of the Japanese people. We have had very interesting and useful discussions during the conference which will serve to be sources of further thinking for future years. For all of these I want to express my gratitude to the organizers of this conference.

But for me another aspect of my experience in the last few days weighs at least equally in my mind. And that is this: Yukawa's great contribution rests in three different though related planes. There is the scientific plane on which a new era was ushered in by Yukawa's paper. There is the Japanese national plane on which we witness the great growth of advanced research in physics in Japan stimulated by Yukawa. There is the international plane on which the Japanese development provides an example and creates a faith for all people who are struggling to gain a position in the modern world. From the historical viewpoint, and despite the shortsighted views of politicians, our century will undoubtedly be noted as the century of science and of the awakening of all people and societies to the goal of self-determination. Against such a perspective let me say that, for giving me the chance to gain a deepened appreciation of the great significance of Yukawa's contribution, for this alone I am grateful.

c073-006