

**ISTC/ STCU Symposium and Seminar:  
The Experience and Technology of Russia, Ukraine, and Other CIS  
On Remediation and Restoration of Environments  
The Honorable Ronald F. Lehman II  
Opening Remarks, Tokyo  
3 February 2012**

- Minister Okumura.<sup>i</sup> Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.
- Good morning and welcome. I am particularly pleased to be here along with so many valued friends and colleagues.
- Many of you in this room know me as the Director of the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Many more of you know me as the Chair of the Governing Board of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC). Today in Tokyo, and tomorrow in Fukushima City, I am also honored to represent the United States Department of Energy (DOE).
- Before I give my official remarks, let me make a few personal remarks. Three decades ago, a distinguished European diplomat told me that he felt reassured because I was what he called an “Atlantic-ist.” I do value our trans-Atlantic ties, but I reminded my good European friend that in his terms I could equally be labeled a “Pacific-ist.” My wife and I had travelled and lived in Europe, but my wife and I also spent years in Asia and had both lived in Japan. My wife studied in Tokyo, and my brother was born in Japan. My college roommate and best friend is Japanese-American. Japan might be the “Far East” to Europe or even in Washington, DC, but to me Japan will always be the “Near West.” I’m from California.
- On March 11<sup>th</sup> last year, the world was reminded that Japan truly is the “Near West” when the Tohoku Tsunami, that caused great tragedy in Japan, sent waves that could still do some damage even after they reached all the way across our shared ocean to the West Coast of the United States.
- The real connection between Japan and the United States, however, is not geography, but people. We see that here today. The human impact of the tsunami was felt around the globe. Japan has many other friends at this symposium from across Eurasia and the

other continents. In particular, I would like to acknowledge those here who are sharing what they learned from their own experience of earlier tragedies that can aid our understanding of remediation and restoration.

- I wear many hats and work with our Japanese colleagues under each of them. With my ISTC Chairman's hat, however, it can actually be said that I workdirectly for Japan. Of course, I workdirectly for the other ISTC Parties as well, as their Chairman. This event today highlights the important work that Japan, the United States and other member countries have achieved through the ISTC. It is also valuable to have the participation of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU), ISTC's sister organization based in Kiev. Over forty countries participate in one or both centers.
- The United States is not the only country to have a close partnership with Japan, but our partnership is deep and rich and spans more than six decades. I personally have had the privilege of working with Japan in science, international security, and nonproliferation for many years.
- With last year's earthquake, tsunami and resulting accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant, continued cooperation and partnership have become even more vital.
- After the tsunami that struck Fukushima, a number of computing centers in Japan had intermittent power, especially last summer. Our laboratory in California, working with the U.S. Department of Energy and Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), made available to Japanese scientists significant operating time on Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Sierra supercomputer. During the year, Japanese scientists all together used approximately eleven million hours on this supercomputer located across the ocean on a different continent.
- In many other ways, the United States has worked closely with our Japanese friends and partners since the first day after the tsunami.
- As a result of our close relationships, our joint commitment to emergency response, and our decades of shared nuclear experience, the United States and Japan utilized our combined consequence management response teams to respond effectively and quickly to this challenging event.

- For example, with data from Japanese experts and DOE personnel, the U.S. National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC), which is headquartered in the building where I have my office, provided continuous, predictive atmospheric modeling capabilities based on a variety of scenarios.
- More recently, the United States and Japan are partnering on a number of efforts to share experiences and develop the tools and strategies necessary to recover from an accident like this. This includes a Fukushima Safeguards Workshop that we recently hosted at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and an event planned later this month at Hanford, the largest nuclear clean-up project in the United States.
- These exchanges and meetings are important as a means to share experience and lessons learned and to assist in the implementation of state-of-the-art technologies in important areas such as safeguards and environmental remediation. This is of value not only to the United States and Japan, but also to all nations with nuclear and radiological industries.
- This brings me back to this important symposium today. The cooperation I have been discussing was very recent, but our cooperation dates back many, many years and is just as strong in multilateral settings. Remember, in 1992, Japan was one of the four founding Parties that originated the international agreement that established the ISTC.
- After years of successful multilateral cooperation, all of the parties have received significant benefits from the ISTC. The ISTC has a broad mandate, and this flexibility has resulted in many updates and improvements over the years. The research and development projects through both science centers have demonstrated scientific excellence and have resulted in innovative technologies that are making a difference in Health and Medicine, Biotechnology, the Environmental Sciences, Nuclear Energy, Oil and Gas, International Security, Radiation Detection, and many other important fields.
- Both the ISTC and the STCU have been in the forefront of establishing collaborations that focus on developing technologies with real potential for commercialization or other public use. In fact, the Department of Energy's Global Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention program has focused on ISTC and STCU projects that involve industry

partners. These projects have achieved a commercialization success rate of over 20%, a rate higher than the standard in the United States.

- You may not be aware of this important history, but it is thanks to Japan's intervention during the process of negotiating the original ISTC Agreement that one of the objectives of the organization became the "solution of national or international technical problems." This problem-solving concept has allowed the ISTC to address such issues as remediation and restoration, which we will discuss today. I am convinced that today's seminar will provide concrete solutions based on the work of ISTC and STCU to the problems around the Fukushima nuclear power plant. We have all benefited from Japan's wisdom in promoting a broad mandate for the ISTC, and today we see a fine example of how Japan itself has benefited.
- This Seminar demonstrates the effectiveness of our efforts through the ISTC and the STCU to advance the priorities of all parties. The Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and other CIS countries as well as funding parties had conducted valuable research on remediation and restoration through the science centers. After the Fukushima accident, MEXT took the valuable initiative to ask the ISTC to review all of the projects related to accident management, decommissioning and environmental remediation.
- This has highlighted the potential for the ISTC and STCU to serve as a multilateral forum for R&D collaboration, investigation of special problems, and sharing ideas to address significant global challenges.
- The Department of Energy is proud to participate in this important dialogue. We are confident that this event will be productive and will give us much to share with all nations.
- I look forward to identifying specific areas where we can further cooperate in this regard, and look forward to our two days together.
- Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup>Senior Vice Minister Tenzo Okumura (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)