TSUKUBA Declaration

PREAMBLE

In the face of the emerging global issues that are increasingly dire, the international community must respond by developing sustainable solutions.

One nation by itself cannot tackle these global challenges nor can these challenges be solved by a single discipline. Solidarity among scientists regardless of borders and disciplines is imperative to achieve sustainable development and prosperity. Tsukuba Global Science Week aims to contribute to this endeavor by bringing together prominent researchers across borders and disciplines to Tsukuba Science City, the largest science and technology hub in Japan, and by providing a platform to deepen understanding of global and regional issues and constructively discuss goals and strategies for the future.

Adhering to the philosophy of respect for people, nature and diversity, the TSUKUBA Declaration affirms and proclaims to the world the resolve of the community of scientists brought together by Tsukuba Global Science Week to work hand in hand to solve the global challenges that we face today. We will continue to do so annually.

TSUKUBA Declaration 2017

Aiming at finding solutions for increasingly complex problems, this year’s Tsukuba Global Science Week focused on “social innovation” as a concept that lies at the heart of these solutions. It is not only through technological artefacts that society is changing. It is equally through social practices – of learning, reciprocity and partnership – that societal change is driven. Both are important and have to be included in a comprehensive understanding of innovation.

There is a lot of evidence that social innovations are driven mainly by NGOs/NPOs, governments, private firms, universities and research institutes. However, the involvement of universities remains marginal. The role of science and research in social innovation needs to be systematically explored and supported.

Therefore, we, a community of researchers gathered here in Tsukuba, strongly pledge to explore and support the role of science and research in social innovation. With this belief in mind, we hereby declare the following:
Article 1.
We, as researchers, strive to make greater efforts to engage in dialogue across borders and disciplines and to act together towards the creation of new knowledge required for the resolution of global issues.

Article 2.
We, as educators, endeavor to contribute to the development of global leaders who will bravely tackle global issues.

Article 3.
We, as supporters of equality, seek to appreciate our own and each other’s cultures, and will work to break the barriers imposed by race, gender, sexuality and other differences.

Article 4.
We, as drivers of innovation, commit ourselves to ‘trans-border’ collaboration across industry, government and academia, and will pioneer new industries and shape the next society.

Article 5.
We, as drivers of social innovation initiatives, aim to strengthen the capacity of science and research to develop innovative solutions to complex social problems.

27 September, 2017
On behalf of the community of scientists hereby assembled in Tsukuba,

Kyosuke Nagata