

Congratulatory Addresses from the Guest from Koriyama City

It is a true honor and a great pleasure for the people of Koriyama City that the Asia-Pacific Regional International Astronomical Union Meeting is held in the presence of Her Imperial Highness Crown Princess Akishino.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished astronomers from all over the world, everyone that is present here today and to everyone that is watching online.

Welcome to Koriyama.

The planetarium of our city's Fureai Science Center is recognized by Guinness World Records as the highest planetarium above the ground in the world at a height of 104.25 meters.

The late world-famous manga artist Mr. Leiji Matsumoto was the first honorary Director of the Science Center, and now this position is filled by the Chairman of the APRIM2023 Local Organizing Committee Mr. Junichi Watanabe.

I have heard that there will be a public lecture at the Planetarium on Saturday the twelfth.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy the view from the observation lobby as well as the many exhibitions.

As you may know, twelve years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident.

Thanks to the hear-warming support from the people all over the world and, more than anything else, the incredible hard work of our citizens we have managed to overcome many challenges one by one, and have reached this moment today.

That is why it is very significant that distinguished astronomers from all over the world have gathered here to discuss new research findings, actively exchange opinions and to socialize, and I am convinced that this Meeting will have a meaningful impact on the spread and advance of fundamental science and that it will lead to a greater Fukushima Renaissance.

I would like to conclude my address by expressing my sincere wish that this Meeting will prove to be a great opportunity to develop a strong worldwide research network and I pray for the good health and success, as well as for the happiness of all participants.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Masato Shinagawa

Mayor of Koriyama City