

Opening Speech of Chairman at STS forum COP 27 Special symposium

19:00-20:30, 8th of November 2022

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues and Friends,

Good afternoon. I am Hiroshi Komiyama, Chairman of STS forum.

I firstly wish to express my sincere thanks to all of you for attending this STS forum COP 27 Special Symposium. I also wish to thank members of RACC International Advisory Committee for organizing this symposium together with STS forum.

Colleagues and Friends,

Today we are facing serious trends of declining planetary health. The crisis of biodiversity is accelerating. The agricultural production and food and water security are threatened in many corners of the world. We are also threatened by intensifying natural disasters. Added to these are newly emerging infectious diseases and demographic issues that make the situation more complex.

So, it is indeed high time for us to put our maximum priority on securing health of Earth, our mother planet.

To successfully cope with these threatening issues, science and technology is the key, I believe. But science and technology tend to be siloed everywhere. In the face of complex problems such as planetary health, we must work together beyond national boundaries and break down disciplinary and organizational silos so that solutions can be provided from more comprehensive and synthetic perspective.

STS forum and its important adjunct meeting RACC (Regional Action on Climate Change) have long been discussing challenges caused by climate change and measures of science and technology against them. Among them are expansion of international cooperation in science and technology and the destruction of silos of all kinds. In particular, importance of conveying the best scientific and technological knowledge to relevant stakeholders beyond silos cannot be over emphasized so that those stakeholders can use it to consider the most effective action.

Today at this symposium, you will have a unique opportunity to discuss the most urgent topics relating to climate change. I hope discussions here will strengthen a global network among all relevant stakeholders, bring about rewarding results for all of you, and lead the way in ensuring a sustainable future for humankind.

Thank you.