

Opening Remarks

*Dr. NAKAMURA Chiharu
Vice President
Kobe University*

Good afternoon distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen and our friends in KU Alumni Association in the kingdom of Thailand. It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the KU Global Link Forum in Bangkok. International alumni Network of KU was established in 2001. As of today, we have 8 International Alumni Associations in 8 Asian countries, Korea, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. With the establishment of Brussels European Center in last September, we will expand our network further by launching Alumni Association in Europe very soon.

KU Global Link Forum in Bangkok was organized as the first International Forum to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the KU International Alumni Net. The strong bond with domestic members and International members in the KU Alumni Net is one of our intelligence resources, and we hope it will strengthen our potential in education, research and social contribution and further heighten the value of "KU Brand".

Now, it is my great honor to announce that Dr. Ampol Senanarong, Privy Councilor, Privy Council Chambers, the kingdom of Thailand will kindly deliver to us a special Congratulatory Address, which will be followed by kind addresses by Assoc. Prof. Bundit Funghammasan, Vice President of King Mongkut' Univ. of Technology, Thonburi, Prof. Sansanee Chaivaroi, Vice President of Mahidol Univ., and Asst. Prof. Nitinant Wisawaisuan, Vice Rector of Thammasat Univ. We also would very much like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Seiji Kojima, Ambassador Extraordinary, Embassy of Japan, Thailand. He will give us a special Congratulatory Address.

As a plenary lecture, Prof. Hideki Fukuda, President of KU will deliver to us a Commemorative Speech, in which he will introduce to you the present status of KU and his own exciting research. At the last, Mr. Praphan Hettrakul, President

Emeritus of KU Alumni Association and President of Yakult Thailand, will give us a hearty and warm Memorial Speech, representing KU alumni in Thailand.

I hope all of us can enjoy today's Global Link Forum in Bangkok, and wish this Forum make a significant step further for promoting our good and everlasting friendship and partnership, not exclusive but inclusive partnership. Thank you very much.