

Greetings

Thank you for your continued cooperation in the activities of the International Standardization Committee of the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS). Now that awareness of international contribution is growing, it is my great pleasure to make a greeting on behalf of the NIMS International Standardization Committee. In the "Proposals for the 6th Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY2021-2025)" formulated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2019, the promotion of international activities and science and technology diplomacy is listed as the first items to be focused. It is necessary to analyze international trends and reflect Japan's intentions in proposals and reports by strengthening cooperation with international organizations, and it is important to develop human resources who can play an active role in such situations. The WTO / TBT Agreement, which came into effect in 1995 by the World Trade Organization (WTO), stipulates that different standards in each country may pose technical barriers to trade (TBT). Furthermore, it was decided that international standards should be respected in domestic standards as well. Since then, international standardization activities have played a central role in innovation strategies for Japan, which aims to become a leading-edge industrial nation. Therefore, it is becoming more and more important to develop human resources for international standardization who can take the lead in international standardization schemes such as ISO, hold discussions with representatives of each country on an equal footing, and carry out proposals and formulation of international standards. NIMS is fully aware of the importance of international standardization in the field of materials. In the 4th Medium- to Long-term Plan (FY2016-2022), it was stipulated that "We aim to standardize the material technology obtained from NIMS research activities and contribute to the international standardization activities in the material field." NIMS's strategy is to actively lead the international standardization of the materials field by utilizing international collaboration schemes and networks. Here, VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standard) is a scheme that realizes an international collaborative network in the standardization of the materials field. It was born as an international cooperation project to conduct pre-standardization research on advanced materials and their test evaluation methods at the G7 Summit held in Versailles, France in 1982. Since then, it is the only project that has been ongoing for nearly 40 years. NIMS is the secretariat of the VAMAS Domestic Committee of Japan. I also contribute to the overall operation of VAMAS as a representative of Japan to the VAMAS Steering Committee (SC). NIMS has established the International Standardization Committee to contribute to the domestic and international standardization of material technology. It consists of a JIS/ISO subcommittee that supports the standardization of material technology (domestic standards, international standards), a VAMAS domestic subcommittee that promotes international pre-standardization research, and the secretariat. Nearly 40 NIMS staff are participating. Through the activities of this committee, we intend to promptly and effectively disseminate information related to material standardization. We appreciate the guidance and cooperation of all concerned parties.

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International Standardization Committee,
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Chair,
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