

## Greeting

Thank you very much for your continued support and cooperation of the activities of the International Standardization Committee of the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS). I would like to make a greeting at the beginning of 2021.

2020 has become a completely different year. The new coronavirus infection (COVID-19), which became apparent at the beginning of the year, swept the world. As of January 2021, it is still in the midst of a pandemic, with new mutants appearing at the end of 2020. In the period of great change in which remote working, wearing masks, social distance, and online meetings became popular as new normal, Japan made a full-scale revision of the Science and Technology Basic Law for the first time in 25 years. The name of the law was changed to "Science and Technology / Innovation Basic Law" and "Creation of Innovation" was set as one of the important pillars. With this amendment, the name of the "Science and Technology Basic Plan", which has been formulated for 25 years since 1996, will be changed to "Science and Technology / Innovation Basic Plan". In the 5th Science and Technology Basic Plan, the promotion of international standardization was stated as part of the "international expansion of knowledge." Promotion of international activities and science & technology diplomacy are the first items that should be focused on. It is important to analyze international trends and promote the international standardization of Japanese industrial technology by strengthening cooperation with international organizations. In addition, to reflect Japan's intentions in the recommendations of international standardization organizations, it is important to develop human resources who can play active roles in such situations. In this way, the strategic use of international standardization will certainly be important in the 6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan, which will start in 2021.

NIMS's 4th Medium-to-Long-term Plan (FY2016-2022) states that "We aim to standardize the material technology obtained from NIMS research activities and contribute to international standardization activities in the material field." One of NIMS's missions is to actively lead the international standardization of materials fields by utilizing international schemes. Here, VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards) is the main scheme for realizing an international collaborative network in standardization of the materials field. VAMAS was born at the G7 Summit held in Versailles (France) in 1982 as an international cooperation project to conduct pre-standardization research on advanced materials and their test evaluation methods. Since then, it is the only project that has been ongoing for nearly 40 years. NIMS is the secretariat of the VAMAS National Committee. As the representative of Japan for the Steering Committee, which controls VAMAS as a whole, we also contribute to the operation of VAMAS itself.

NIMS has established the NIMS International Standardization Committee to promote the standardization and international standardization of material technology. It consists of a JIS / ISO subcommittee that supports standardization of material technology (domestic standards, international standards), a VAMAS domestic subcommittee that promotes international pre-standardization

research, and the secretariat. Through the activities of this committee, we intend to effectively promote the sharing of information on the standardization of advanced materials and the dissemination of established material-related standards. We appreciate the guidance and cooperation of all concerned parties.

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International Standardization Committee

National Institute for Materials Science

Chair,

Dr. Daisuke FUJITA