

## Greetings

Thank you very much for your continued support and cooperation of the activities in the International Standardization Committee of the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS). I would like to make a greeting at the beginning of 2022.

The pandemic caused by the new corona viruses that emerged in January 2020 is still unabated, plunging people into chaos and inconvenience. A highly contagious variant appeared at the end of last year, and the number of infected people in Europe, the United States, and even Japan is rapidly increasing. Restrictions on people's movements, gatherings, meetings, and other activities that should normally be free to do are spreading. The world is still stuck in a pandemic, which is hard to understand in today's world where life sciences seem to have advanced significantly. Official international standardization meetings such as ISO and IEC have been made virtual by default. Meetings and seminars related to international standardization committees are now also held online. I hope that this year we will be able to return to "normal life".

The Sixth Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan, approved by the Cabinet in 2021, calls for " R&D for solving various social issues, advancement of social implementation, and utilization of convergence of knowledge". The main goal of the plan is to "increase Japan's involvement in the preparation of guidelines for international organizations and steadily develop the status of initiatives for the international and strategic use of intellectual property and standards to solve social issues and capture international markets," and the government as a whole will develop a control tower function and system, and strengthen and accelerate measures for the use of standards, including international standardization. The public and private sectors are to promote the strategic and international utilization of standards in a focused and specific manner in important areas such as solving social issues and capturing international markets.

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." It is from the fourth period that leading international standardization in the field of materials has been clearly positioned as one of the overall missions. VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards) is the main scheme for realizing an international collaborative network in standardization of the materials field. This year marks the 40th anniversary of its birth at the Versailles Summit in 1982 as an " international cooperation project to conduct pre-standardization research on advanced materials and their test evaluation methods ". NIMS is the secretariat of the VAMAS National Committee. As the representative of Japan for the Steering Committee, we also contribute to the operation of VAMAS itself.

NIMS established the NIMS International Standardization Committee in FY2016 to promote the standardization 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. 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.

January 2022

International Standardization Committee

National Institute for Materials Science

Chair,

Dr. Daisuke FUJITA