

Opening Remarks by Prof. Naomi Kato

My name is Naomi Kato of Osaka University, Chairman of International Symposium on Natural and Technological Risk Reduction at Large Industrial Parks (NATECH2016). First of all, on behalf of its organizing committee, I would like to thank all of you for taking part in this symposium. We are very happy to welcome you to this symposium again after the first symposium held on last March.

Oil storage tanks in industrial parks were heavily damaged by large scale tsunami, and large-scale oil spills occurred, which led to fire in entire city area of Kesen-numa at Great East Japan earthquake on March 11, 2011. Much more larger scale disasters of damages and hazardous materials releases will be estimated in Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay or Osaka Bay if Nankai Trough Great Earthquake occurs. It is very urgent to perform risk assessment of damages and hazardous materials releases caused by large scale earthquake and tsunami, and take countermeasures to decrease such disasters.

This symposium is aiming at scientific exchange and collaboration through the sharing of experiences, risk assessments and innovative risk reduction measures on chemical accidents triggered by large-scale natural disasters at industrial parks among researchers, administrative bodies, and industries in the interdisciplinary fields from the worldwide viewpoints to contribute to societal resilience.

This time, we invited 3 researchers from Philippine, Thailand and Indonesia. According to the report of World Risk Index from United Nations University, Philippine is ranked 3rd, Japan 15th, Indonesia 33rd, and Thailand 94th. We need to extensively promote scientific exchange and collaboration, and establishment of a network for data and experiences exchange, training and education among the countries with vulnerability to natural hazards.

Disaster at large-scale industrial parks caused by large-scale natural hazards are characterized by concurrence of compound events with strong interference, hazardous influence on citizens' lives and property, land and maritime logistics, and environmental contamination. We need to collaborate with each other against such a disaster beyond the barrier of sections, ministries, and countries. We would be happy if we could give a hint to consider how to resolve this problem from the discussions raised in this symposium.