

## Comments on the Next OIST President

December 15, 2016



I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Peter Gruss, the former president of the Max Planck Society, will be appointed as President of the Okinawa Institute of Science & Technology Graduate University (OIST).

I met with Dr. Gruss today. He has rich experience in managing research institutions, served as the president of the Max Planck Society from 2002 to 2014, which is a well-known research institute known for world-class basic research. He is also well-versed in industry-academia collaboration. I am sure that he is the right person for the president of OIST.

I fully expect Dr. Gruss to create a favorable research environment at OIST that will attract leading researchers and brilliant students from throughout the nation and around the world. In addition, OIST reached the midway point for the 10<sup>th</sup> year review from the establishment in 2011. I strongly hope that Dr. Gruss will promote education and research in science and technology at the world's highest level at OIST, and strengthen the financial basis of OIST as its President.

Another major goal of OIST is the contribution to the promotion and independent development of Okinawa. I expect him to promote research that utilizes the characteristics of the natural environment and the industry of Okinawa, and to enhance industry-academia collaboration, which leads to industrial innovation in Okinawa. I also anticipate that Dr. Gruss will contribute to Okinawa's human resource development and foster internationally competitive talents from Okinawa, by interacting with the local community.

Furthermore, this can be a wonderful opportunity for the academic world in Japan to be able to share his experience and knowledge at world's highest level. I am hoping that his appointment will increase mutual exchange between domestic universities as well as research institutions and OIST.

The Cabinet Office will continue to support OIST for its further development.

Yosuke Tsuruho

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