

# **WORLD CULTURAL COUNCIL AWARD CEREMONY 2019**

**University of Tsukuba**

## **Welcoming speech**

**Mr. NAKAOKA Tsukasa, Deputy Commissioner for Cultural  
Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs,  
Government of Japan**

President Nagata, Professor Sir Colin Blakemore, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

It's my great honor to attend the 36<sup>th</sup> World Cultural Council Awards Ceremony, and address this distinguished audience from industry, government and academy.

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the two WCC Awards winners, Dr Zhong Lin Wang and Mr Paulo Branco.

They have each excelled in domains of science and arts, and demonstrated with their inspiring achievements how science and arts can bring about positive influence to the global society.

I'm especially impressed with Mr Branco's engagement with new views from cinematographic expression and his dedicated commitment to cultivating, intensive and activity, between different fields of culture, such as literature, fine arts and music.

I'd also like to express my deepest appreciation to the World Cultural Council for promoting not only science, but also arts over the years.

Culture and the arts, including music, drama, dance, film, animation and Japanese manga, bring sensation and joy of living to us in each of our lives.

The arts are, at the same time, a strong driving force in liberalizing society at large.

In order to promote the arts and culture over Japan, the Agency of Cultural Affairs is dedicated to various efforts that do contribute to expand the range of people who enjoy and create arts and culture.

Regarding our efforts of promoting films, we provide various supports such as promotions of creative activities; proactive dissemination domestically and internationally, and promotion of exchange between people and groups involved in films, and practical trainings, human resource development through film production.

Last but not least, I'm much delighted to that this is the first WCC Award Ceremony ever held in Japan.

I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to the University of Tsukuba for bringing this signature event to our country, I have no doubt that this sound ceremony and two outstanding role models, Dr Zhong Lin Wang and Mr Paulo Branco, have inspired all future shapers assembled here in Tsukuba Conference.

I wish Dr Zhong Lin Wang and Mr Paulo Branco, as well as the World Cultural Council, the University of Tsukuba, the Tsukuba Conference, and future shapers, all the best with their further contributions to the wellbeing of humankind.

Thank you for your attention.