Dear friends and colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Universität Hamburg-Kyoto University Symposium 2017.

Kyoto University is honored to co-host this symposium with our valued partner Universität Hamburg in the beautiful harbor city of Hamburg, with its rich history of international exchange and prosperity.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to all of the participating researchers for their invaluable contributions, and for making this symposium possible.

Over the last two years we have worked on deepening the mutual understanding and cooperation between our two institutions—efforts which entailed a number of visits back and forth between Germany and Japan. This symposium now represents a new stage in our collaboration.

The symposium focuses on six selected academic areas: manuscript culture, physics, law and economics, polymer chemistry, Japanese studies, and infection research. We anticipate that it will lead to significant new developments in research collaboration in these disciplines.

The symposium also serves as an opportunity for the conclusion of a Memorandum for Academic Cooperation and Exchange and a Student Exchange Agreement between our two institutions. The conclusion of those agreements will facilitate a further deepening of our partnership. I hope that, together, we can make a significant and lasting contribution to academic cooperation between Germany and Japan, and contribute to the advancement of international academic society as a whole.

I would like to end this brief greeting by thanking once again the faculty and staff of our two institutions who have worked so hard towards this symposium’s realization. It is my hope that all participants will have many excellent opportunities to share knowledge and ideas, and form new and lasting partnerships. I extend my sincere best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and enlightening two days of discovery, learning, and friendship.

Dr. Juichi Yamagiwa