

Lecture title: "Working to Create a Future"

This title is taken from the words of Paul Valéry. In the French language of Valéry, the word, "*hataraki*," is translated as "fonction," which in English is "function." In Japanese, this word can also be translated as "work," "function," or "profession." In another lecture, Valéry said the following.

"Our important work (fonction) is to create a future. It is our work to breathe, take nutrition, and move around to create a future."

Today, we are living in a world facing great crises. Our most important work at this time is to create a future society that will not have to face the dangers of radioactivity, for example. Today, our most fundamental work is to figure out how to create this society for the children who will be living in this future. I would like to take time to consider this aspect. I would like to talk this in relation to the theme of this congress, "Sharing Traditions, Creating Futures."