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THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE UJNR
PANEL ON FIRE RESEARCH AND SAFETY,
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OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Yoshio Mimura
Building Research Institute, Japan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to have visited this country again to join the 13th UJNR Panel on Fire Research and Safety.

This meeting was planned to be held last autumn, but because of the U.S. budget problems, it has been postponed until today. Since the Japanese fiscal year is from April to March the next year, if this meeting would have been postponed over April this year, it would have been quite difficult for us to join the meeting. Therefore, we requested the U.S. panel to try to hold the meeting this time here. But I can imagine how much hard work the U.S. panel did to hold the meeting this time. On behalf of the Japanese panel, I would like to extend our deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Snell and the U.S. Panel.

Well, as you have known, Japan was shaken and shocked by the Kobe Earthquake last year, and the importance of disaster prevention was recognized. On the other hand, the demands of rationalization of standards and the moderation of restrictions have increased corresponding to the aim of international harmonization.

To meet the needs of an age, it is inevitable to establish the concept of safety as the one which can be evaluated more scientifically and substantially on the basis of internationally common understanding.

In the field of fire research as well as earthquake resistance research, U.S. and Japan are the leading countries in the world. So UJNR should play a more important role from now on.

I certainly wish the fire research of both the U.S. and Japan will be developed much more in the future and the experts in the field of both countries will enhance the mutual understanding as usual and will tighten their collaborative spirit much more to do their mission through the UJNR Panel on Fire Research and Safety of this time.

Thank you very much.