

**ISTC/ STCU Symposium and Seminar:
The Experience and Technology of Russia, Ukraine, and Other CIS
On Remediation and Restoration of Environments**

**The Honorable Ronald F. Lehman II
Opening Remarks, Fukushima City
4 February 2012**

- Minister Hosono,¹ Governor Sato,² Citizens of Fukushima Prefecture, Other Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.
- Yesterday, in Tokyo, we held a symposium on research related to decontamination, remediation and restoration of environments. Today, we welcome you to the “Seminar for the Restoration of Fukushima.”
- Yesterday’s symposium was primarily about science and technology. Today’s symposium is primarily about how people work together.
- The focus of each of the two meetings may be different, but the purpose is the same. Our goal is to help more people from around the world to work with the people of Japan, and particularly with the people of this region, to undo as much as possible the damage caused when the deadly Tsunami of March 11th last year struck the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plants.
- We understand that reversing that damage cannot undo the tragic loss of life caused by the earthquake and resulting gigantic tidal wave. Your loss and your heroic efforts to restore your lives have touched the hearts of every human being on every continent. That includes the scientific community, and especially those who have learned from their own, earlier tragedies.
- Perhaps nowhere in the world are there scientists who can better comprehend what you face than those scientists from Ukraine, Belarus, and the Russian Federation who had to confront the tragedies created by the nuclear reactor meltdown at Chernobyl.
- Yesterday and today, the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), and its sister organization, the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) have brought

together with leading Japanese experts some of the world's finest researchers in the field of remediation and restoration.

- This was made possible by a number of initiatives by the government of Japan spanning twenty years:
 - First, Japan was one of the four founding members of the International Science and Technology Center, which now has some 40 countries participating.
 - Second, when the ISTC was being created, Japan proposed that the ISTC be given a broad mandate so that we would have the option to address challenges such as those created at the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plants by last year's tsunami.
 - Third, Japan has contributed outstanding individuals to the ISTC who have served as Governing Board Members, as Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Committee, as Deputy Executive Directors, as Chairs of the Coordinating Committee, as Senior Program Managers, and in other important positions.
 - Fourth, Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) took the initiative to have the ISTC pull together all its research related to the needs of Fukushima, a project lead by Mr. Yasumasa Watanabe, the Japanese Deputy Executive Director of the ISTC.
 - Fifth, officials from MEXT, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the U.S. Department of Energy, joined with the two science centers to host these two meetings.
- Today here in Fukushima City, I am honored to represent the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and also the International Science and Technology Center. As I said yesterday, I have had the privilege of working with Japanese officials and citizens in many different fields wearing a number of different official hats. Yet my own ties to Japan are also deeply personal. I lived here. My wife went to college here. My brother was born here. I live in California, just across the ocean we share. In the modern age, that makes us neighbors.
- But we are not your only neighbors. You have neighbors across Eurasia.
- Yesterday, distinguished scientists from your neighborhood joined with Japanese scientists in a dialog toward a better future. That dialog will continue here today. And you will be joining in that dialog, to the benefit of all. Thank you.

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- ¹ Mr. GoshiHosono (Minister of the Environment, Minister for the Restoration from and Prevention of Nuclear Accidents, Minister of State for Nuclear Power Policy and Administration)
- ² Mr. Yuhei Sato (Governor, Fukushima Prefecture)