

Opening Greeting

Sydney CHAPMAN

*Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska; High Altitude Observatory,
University of Colorado; Institute of Science and Technology,
University of Michigan; U.S.A.*

My first words, Mr. President and members of the Organizing Committee for this Conference, are words of thanks to you for the honour you have done me in inviting me to be the opening speaker from overseas. Next I wish to express to you our Japanese hosts, on my own behalf and on behalf of all who have come here from overseas, our pleasure in being with you in your country — a pleasure to which we have long looked forward. Your country does and will delight us by its beauty, its many tokens of a great past and a great present, and by its distinctive culture. But more than this: as scientists whose special interests are directed to the interconnections between the earth, the sun and the cosmos beyond, we are glad to be with you who for more than two decades have shown extraordinary devotion to these fields. In Japan your interests are necessarily turned to interior geophysics by the natural seismic activity in the islands that are your national home. But your great efforts in aeronomy, geomagnetism, astrophysics and cosmic rays have no such special cause. They were manifested in remarkable measure in your contributions to the International Geophysical Year. Japan was active in every branch of that great enterprise, which led you to your first participation in Antarctic observation and rocket researches. Japan has also accepted responsibility for an exceptional number of IGY World Data Centers. The success of Japanese scientists before the IGY began, in interpretative and theoretical studies in geophysics, gives assurance that you will take a leading part also in garnering the fruits of knowledge and understanding that will come from the IGY data. Already here we have mutually much to exchange, in our reports on earth storms and cosmic rays, of what has been learnt from IGY and post-IGY observations.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute here to the memory of your great Japanese scientific leader, Professor A. Tanakadate, whose life (1857-1952) spanned the whole development, to maturity and excellence, of Japanese science, especially in geophysics. Would that his long life had covered the few more years that would have enabled him to grace this Conference with his presence, his charm, his modesty, his humor and his enthusiasm. I count it part of my good fortune to have known him in my earlier years, as it has been my good fortune in later years to have some of his younger successors, Hasegawa, Nagata, Kato, Sugiura, Matsushita and Akasofu as close fellow-workers.