Message in support of Prof. Omatsu's project.

In the past, it was common to distinguish between basic research (science) and applied research (technology), but by the 1960s, science and technology came to be seen as inseparable. I entered the doctoral program at Osaka University's newly established Faculty of Engineering Science, which symbolized that era. Subsequently, I came to believe that it is more appropriate to refer to basic and applied researches as exploratory and realization researches. Recently, the situation has changed dramatically, with a paradigm shift in science and technology centered around semiconductors and AI. Both basic and exploratory researches have been overshadowed, and research that is useful today and contributes to SDGs tomorrow is now highly valued. Also in Taiwan, where I have spent over 15 years after retiring from Osaka University, and in Belgium, where I am engaged in collaborative research, this trend is very strong. While Japan has been criticized for lagging behind and experiencing a "lost 20 years," it may be possible to see that Japan has finally reached an environment where its uniqueness can be demonstrated. Every time I meet with members of Transformative Research Areas and PRESTO (SAKIGAKE) projects, I am deeply moved by this sentiment. Particularly, "Revolution of Chiral Materials Science using Helical Light Fields" emerges as a field that showcases unique perspectives, innovative methodologies, and integrates optical, physical, and material sciences. Its further development is highly anticipated. I hope it becomes a representative example of Japan's research originality.

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