

Welcoming Remarks

International Workshop on Low Energy Neutrino Physics

at Seoul National University, Korea

09:30, November 9 (Wednesday), 2011

*Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

Welcome to the 6th International Workshop on Low Energy Neutrinos in Seoul !!

It is a great pleasure for me to give welcoming remarks at this workshop where world-renowned neutrino physicists will discuss many issues that have been gaining notice in recent years. I am pleased to notice that there will be many exciting presentations by world's neutrino experts in the next three days.

As some of you may be aware, the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), for which I'm working, was founded in June 2009, consolidating three different research funding organizations of Korea, namely KOSEF, KRF and KICOS, into a single unified one, and thus streamlining funding mechanisms across different areas ranging from science & engineering to the humanities &

social science to interdisciplinary research and international cooperation.

The NRF provides an array of R&D funding mechanisms to foster researchers's creativity and thus help produce tangible research outcomes which will change the paradigm of our life in a better way. The total budget for R&D investment of NRF is about 3 billion US dollar. I note that it's around half the budget of NSF in United States. With strong support from Korean government, the R&D budget is continuously increasing.

Here I would like to briefly introduce one of the areas the NRF is focusing its efforts on.

To cultivate creativity and innovative ideas, the NRF is offering researchers, who carry out the so-called "high risk, high return project," a higher tolerance for a project failure, when they could not produce an expected output. The NRF believes that this bold new scheme will encourage scientists to address challenging, high-impact issues, rather than settle for a low-hanging fruit.

This is just one example that NRF is diligently working on to promote creative, innovative, and bold research.

NRF will try its best for improving national basic sciences including neutrino physics, and international collaboration.

I'm not an expert of neutrino, but as a physicist I'm interested in this area. I know that the neutrino attracted much attention recently as a possible special particle moving faster than the speed of light. although the result should be carefully checked and needs to be repeated. I understand that measurement of the smallest and unknown mixing angle is quite necessary for neutrino physics to go into the next step. I am glad that Korea has participated in the race of such an important measurement.

We are pleased to hear that RENO experiment of Korea started data-taking from August 1st, 2011 after 5 years of construction and preparation from 2006. I guess nothing was easy at all because of insufficient fund, limited man power, and short time. Today we are here to hear about their early result as well as other interesting results.

We believe that RENO is just the start of Korean efforts on neutrino experiment. I think RENO experiment is one good example of "high-risk high-impact" project, which our NRF is emphasizing very much. National Research

Foundation of Korea has been supporting the research work of RENO since 2009, through the Korea Neutrino Research Center as one of Advanced Centers of Excellence. We will do our best to help in making the RENO experiment successful.

I wish that all of you could enter a bright future of neutrino physics program after a successful measurement of the last mixing angle. Also wish that you have a very productive workshop and good time in Seoul.

Thank you very much.

*Prof. Se-Jung Oh,
President of National Research Foundation of Korea.*