

Greetings Consul General Ryuta Mizuuchi

Friday, 3rd of March 2017 at 09.00 o'clock a.m.

**Shimadzu Europa GmbH: Opening ceremony
European Innovation Center, Duisburg**

Dear Mayor Link, (Mr. Sören Link, Mayor of Duisburg),

Dear Dr. Ueda (President and CEO of Shimadzu Corporation, Japan),

Dear Mr. Yamamoto (President Shimadzu Europa),

Dear Mr. Maruyama (GM Analytical & Measuring Instruments Division)

Dear customers, partners and staff members from Shimadzu,

Distinguished researchers of the Innovation Center and its network,

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great pleasure to be able to be with you today on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Shimadzu European Innovation Center here in Duisburg and have the chance to speak in front of you. First of all, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all those who have contributed to establishing this Innovation Center, and have made today's event possible.

As everyone knows, Shimadzu Corporation is a leading company in the field of precision instruments, analytical and measuring instruments and medical equipment. Since its foundation in the year 1875 in Kyoto, it has been constantly striving to promote innovation and research.

It was the first company to **take X-Ray pictures** in Japan (**1896**), and start **production of batteries (1897)** or **spectrographs (1935)**. In **1956** Shimadzu developed the **first gas chromatographs in Japan**.

The **most famous researcher** that Shimadzu has ever had was Mr. **Koichi Tanaka**, who won the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2002** for developing a method of *mass spectrometric analyses of biological macromolecules*, together with Messrs. John Bennett Fenn and Kurt Wüthrich.

From this viewpoint, it is no wonder that Shimadzu, yet again, focuses on research worldwide and has now locked on Duisburg as the key station in Europe, in search for establishing a network of leading researchers and experts of many countries like Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland and Austria in the *medical clinical area, food safety* and *carbon fiber composite materials*. With its total investment in the first year of approximately 1.5 Million EUR, which will certainly be followed by much more to come in the following years, the Innovation Center will certainly serve as a basis to further strengthen Shimadzu's technological advancement and secure its position as the front-runner of the three afore-mentioned fields in the future.

This, on the other hand, offers Duisburg as the site of the Innovation Center a great opportunity to present itself as – in addition to its fame as Europe's largest inland port – a hub of high-tech industries, and possibly the second home of Japanese Community in NRW. Why not? It will also fit perfectly into the recent initiatives to create the Metropolitan Region Rhineland and the decision by Duisburg to join this Union.

I hope very much that the foundation of this Innovation Center will bring Shimadzu a great benefit in many ways. Likewise I hope that through this initiative the exchanges of expertise between Japan and Germany as well as entire Europe will be launched and promoted further. This, I

believe, will be a valuable contribution to the development of technology and upgrading of the level of wealth and happiness of all human beings.

With this in mind I wish all Shimadzu employees and the management team, the City of Duisburg, the researchers involved – together with the institutions in the relevant countries – all the best and success of this superb project.

Thank you for your attention.