

Foreword



Dear readers,

I have begun my second year as President at KIAS in the autumn of 2014. Our achievements this year, thanks to members and friends of KIAS, are in the process of building a legacy that will benefit the institution, this field, and ultimately the future of mankind. This year, we launched the Quantum Universe Center. Our research members' hard work was acknowledged through awards and invited talks, domestic and international. The Institute also made contributions to the successful conclusion of Seoul ICM 2014.

Meanwhile, there have been new waves in basic sciences research environment in Korea. The new Minister of Science, ICT and Planning has been appointed in July, and the new President for the Institute for Basic Sciences (IBS) has also taken his chair in September (I would also like to note that the IBS president is none other than the 5th President of KIAS, Prof. Doochul Kim). On the other hand, with the economy going into recession, acquiring budget for 2015 proved to be more challenging than ever.

Challenges regarding budgeting seems to be the unfortunate global trend for many basic science research institutes around the world. There are urgent and 'practical' matters that should be attended to, but I believe international government bodies should have the foresight to continue their investment in basic sciences. Although not immediately applicable, the quest for new knowledge is essential to continual development and innovation, a necessity for our future. We basic scientists should become more persuasive regarding

In spite of uncertainties and concerns, we shall persevere and strive for more excellent research. We are, after all, built to "imagine the impossible"! Trusting my colleagues to take our research to the next level, I will, as I have emphasized at that inauguration ceremony, focus on recruiting outstanding research members and improving research environment by acquiring additional space. That is what I aim to achieve, I hope, not despite it all but thanks to everything.

I wish you all the best for 2015.

Best wishes,
JongHae Keum

A handwritten signature of JongHae Keum in black ink. The signature is cursive and matches the printed name above it.

President