

Welcome

First of all, let me express on behalf of all of us our deepest thoughts to the Japanese delegation and the Japanese population affected by the severe earthquake from March 11th 2011, followed by a gigantic tsunami and a major nuclear threat in Fukushima. We know that Japanese people have the strength to face and overcome the situation, with reconstruction work having already begun.

The focus on renewable energies for this 17th World Micromachine Summit was set long before the Japanese disaster. The theme is now a major political issue all over the world.

Fossil energies have always been known to be a short term solution. In addition to that, research, industry and politics are now also facing the challenging issue of running out, sooner or later, of nuclear energy. All efforts should focus on energy savings, where the potential is extremely high, and on efficient production of renewable energies.

Micro- and Nanotechnologies have already developed several ways to address these two issues, in particular in photovoltaics, fuel cells, energy harvesting techniques, ultra low power electronics and smart grids. MNT are definitely entering the cleantech and new innovative solutions are still to come. MNT for cleantech will become a worldwide booming domain.

The 2011 edition of the World Micromachine Summit is organized by the Swiss delegation in Ras Al Khaimah – UAE. The reason is not only the choice of the Emirates as hosting country for IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency), but more specifically because Ras Al Khaimah is very active in this domain and two major Swiss research centers - CSEM and EPFL - are developing here new activities related to renewable energies.

I would like to express our thanks to CSEM-uae for hosting the event, to EPFL Middle East for helping with the organization and to RAKIA - RAK Investment Authority - for supporting the event.

I wish all the delegates fruitful discussions and a memorable stay in the sun of Ras Al Khaimah.



Philippe Fischer
Director of FSRM, Switzerland and Chairman of MMS2011