TRANSLATION
Acceptance Speech
Prof. Shinya Yamanaka

Co-Winner of the 2011
King Faisal International Prize for Medicine

33rd Awards Ceremony
Sunday 13 March 2011 (8.4.1432H)

HRH Prince Nayef Ibn Abd Al-Aziz Al-Saud
Second Deputy Premier and
Minister of Interior
Your Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests

It is a tremendous honor to receive the 2011 King Faisal International Prize for Medicine. I feel more honored because the co-winner of this prize is Dr. James Thomson, who generated human embryonic stem (ES) cells in 1998 and reported the generation of human induced stem (iPS) cells at the same time when my research group did in 2007. His achievement greatly encouraged me to work on cellular reprogramming. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to both the King Faisal Foundation and to the selection committee.

Several years ago, I contributed an essay to a Japanese newspaper, which included the following thoughts: "Science is a process of stripping away the layers of veils that cover up the truth. When a scientist lifts one veil, the researcher often discovers yet another. However, sometimes a scientist with the right amount of luck suddenly discovered the truth upon pulling away a certain veil. This fortunate researcher then publishes a paper in a top-notch journal and is widely acclaimed. We must not forget that the act of removing each veil is equally important. It is unfair that only the lucky scientist receive all of the praise."

Humbly accepting the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine, I would like to stress that those thoughts remain unchanged. The generation of iPS cells is based on the findings of numerous scientists in the field of nuclear reprogramming, as well as countless researchers in many other related fields. Today, I have the good fortune to be here as a co-winner of the prize, thanks to the hard-earned results achieved by many researchers, including Dr. Thomson, and the efforts by many of my colleagues who have devotedly performed experiments. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to my family who generously support me. Without those people, I could never have made the achievement.

iPS cell technology is still in its infancy. Its potential use and

applications in medicine are enormous, but there are also many challenges which need to be overcome before it can be successfully applied to the discovery of new drugs and regenerative medicine. I will pursue my research with other scientists and my colleagues so that we can truly put iPS cell technology to use for patients.