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**Fiorenzo Galli**

Welcome

Welcome to all of you. We can start our day, which gives us particular satisfaction. I bring you my personal greeting as General Director of the Museum, that of all the staff and also of our president, Mr. Michele Perini, who today cannot be here due to prior commitments as president of FieraMilano.

It's a special occasion because with this conference the museum continues on the same path in pursuit of one of its fundamental tasks, the dissemination and understanding of the scientific and technological learning.

The program in the morning sees the attendance of prominent people of high scientific profile who will accompany us through the various disciplines and fields that have to do with the theme of the day, the afternoon will be devoted instead to the representatives of the institutions who are called to translate the results of the scientific community's research into actions.

Therefore, the job of the Museum, on these occasions, is that to help our audience, different for age, skills and grounding to understand the importance that links the scientific knowledge to the awareness in our choices and the ability to take decisions, as best as possible as far as the democracy of the knowledge is concerned.

In fact, if the scientific world has the right to receive the necessary resources to move forward, to innovate, thus offering citizens conditions of life as best as possible, at the same time citizens cannot just be passive users of a show that takes place elsewhere; they must be involved and properly informed to make this possible.

The Museum, therefore, continues to implement its activities and in particular those concerning our departments. On this occasion we have involved the energy department but I would like to remind the others: transports, communications, materials, Leonardo art & science, new frontiers, science for children.

Just in order to reach a higher number of people than this room can contain- I see some people standing - the Museum makes use of other communication channels. This conference will also be broadcast live; I say this with a small amount of pride, and then deferred to next replications, within our daily schedule, on radiomuseoscienza. We are in fact the only museum who has a radio which works with a palimpsest of direct and replicas of transmissions related to our initiatives.

Let me now introduce the coordinator of the Scientific Committee, Mr. Ignazio Tabacco, who has wished to put a new slant 'to this particular day, the purpose of which is not to look for certainties but rather to stimulate doubt. I think this is a very effective method which is the reason why I always speak in a positive way of scientists and researchers, because they are people who are used to challenge themselves; this is very important and it is also a way of life ;it is indeed uncommon to meet people who question themselves.

We will then be joined by our friend Mr. Giovanni Caprara, editor of Corriere della Sera and national head of the scientific section, who will coordinate the morning session.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mitsubishi Electric president, Mr Yasuaki Hori, as representative of this important company which cooperates with us. Let us speak not only of economic and trade relations but also of a true partnership sharing initiatives with the Museum not only concerning the themes but also the way by which these are implemented. The next event in which the Museum will be involved is the Annual Conference of ECSITE - European Network of Science Centers and Museums - an international meeting that will be held here at the museum from the 4th to 6<sup>th</sup> of June, with the attendance of more than 1000 delegates of the most important science museums and science centers in the world, during

which the issues and methods by which our institutions are addressing to their audience will be debated.

Before leaving the word to Mr. Yasuaki Hori, I would like to thank all the participants and guests; I wish you all a good day and good work.