



The National Science Foundation

4201 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA

Letter from National Science Foundation

April 15, 2009

Dear International Workshop on BSBA Technologies Invited Participants:

I wish to extend to you my personal welcome to Taiwan and to the International Workshop on BSBA Technologies. The workshop chairs, Professor K. C. Tsai of the National Center for Research on Earthquake Engineering (Taiwan), Professor C.-H. Loh of National Taiwan University (Taiwan), Professor Henry Yang (University of California Santa Barbara), Professor Ming Wang of Northeastern University (US), and Professor Kon-Well Wang of University of Michigan (US) have done an excellent job planning our workshop activities for the coming three days. I am personally excited by all of the intellectual challenges we will explore together, while having opportunities to thoroughly enjoy the cultural, culinary, and sight-seeing events planned for when we are not working.

The most successful workshops are ones that produce outcomes of high intellectual value and broad societal impact. Undoubtedly, this workshop is aimed at achieving the highest level of quality. Towards this end, follow-up actions are already planned to ensure the workshop outcomes have broad-based impacts on the scientific community specifically, and societies across the Pacific in general. But clearly, whether this workshop will be considered a big success or failure will all depend upon three things: 1) how serious you are about promoting an open discussion on the future of BSBA technologies, 2) the level of preparation you diligently provide before the workshop, and 3) the concentrated focus you offer during all workshop deliberations. I am confident that you will be unyielding in your commitment to meet the workshop objectives that NSF and NSC have established.

The workshop objectives are clearly identified and work plans are detailed out in these proceedings. In particular, the success of the workshop depends upon you being completely engaged in the discussions planned for the break-out sessions. I ask that you provide the break-out session chairs and recorders with assistance in preparing presentation materials and material for a paper each working group is being asked to prepare. In addition, each working group will be requested to formulate one (but no more than two) grand challenge problem statements upon which future U.S.-Taiwan research initiatives can be built.

Again thank you for your participation and contributions - I am very much looking forward to working with you and engaging in exciting dialogue with you in the coming three days.

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