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On gaining discovery rights for element 113

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I am very grateful that we have been granted the naming rights to element 113. I am extremely grateful to my collaborators who continued the experiments with tireless dedication during the long period when we saw no events. I would also like to thank the many people who, understanding the importance of basic research, provided us with the research facilities needed to make the discovery. They include successive presidents of RIKEN, my various supervisors since my initial appointment to the cyclotron research group in 1984, and the many colleagues who gave me valuable advice. Our experiments relied heavily on the performance of the Nishina Center's accelerator. We are greatly indebted to the efforts and reliable cooperation of the experiment group. Japan would not have been able to carry out research in superheavy elements without RIKEN.

The field of superheavy element synthesis has now entered a new phase, and we will be moving on to the creation of elements in the eighth row of the periodic table. I plan to continue my work to upgrade the accelerator facilities and targets so that Japan can play an important role in further discoveries.

If this achievement encourages young people to take a greater interest in science, I think that in itself will be a significant contribution by basic science to society.