

Greetings

Toru KURODA

Director of NHK Science & Technology Research Laboratories

NHK Science & Technology Research Laboratories (STRL), the sole research facility in Japan specializing in broadcasting technology, is working to build a rich broadcasting culture. Our aim is to help NHK fulfill its public broadcaster role by developing world-leading broadcasting technologies.



Fiscal year 2014 saw a quantum leap in our efforts to provide the world's best broadcasting media, including enhancement of NHK Hybridcast services, the full-scale launch of Hybridcast services by commercial broadcasters, and the start of 4K test broadcasting. Our continuing mission is to develop technologies providing higher performance and more sophisticated functionality, as seen in the technologies we have developed for satellite broadcasting, Hi-Vision TV, flat panel displays, and digital broadcasting. The next step in this mission is test broadcasting of 8K Super Hi-Vision, which is scheduled to begin in 2016. The momentum will thus continue to grow in our research and development of broadcasting media.

In this age of technological innovation, we are fully committed to conducting research for resolving near-term operational issues and, at the same time, undertaking long-term studies to create new services for the future, such as three-dimensional television. We will make every effort to build a technological infrastructure for the next generation of broadcasting as we carry out research on a wide range of topics, from user-friendly broadcasting to advanced devices and systems. Moreover, to strengthen ties with broadcasting and research organizations in other countries, we will continue to collaborate with other organizations in various ways and to share our research results internationally.

It is my hope that this annual report will help you better understand NHK STRL's research and development activities and enable us to build collaborative relationships that promote research and development. I also hope it will help you utilize the results of our efforts.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support and look forward to your continued cooperation in the future.