

Preface

Reports on the presence, transport, bioaccumulation, biomagnification and above all the toxic mechanisms and implications of the myriad number of chemicals that have enhanced the agricultural and industrial activities providing a better quality of life to human have also shown the possible adverse effects on human health. The reports showing the presence of various chemicals at appreciable quantities in various environmental and biotic niches has aroused interest among the ecotoxicologists for studying the effects of such pollutants, especially the persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and novel POPs. This has led to the conduct of the International Symposium on Biological Responses to Chemical Pollutants at Ehime University, focusing mainly on two key fields—Effects of pollutants and mechanisms of toxic actions and the role of “Omics” technologies in environmental toxicology.

The symposium which had also focused on establishing an Asian network of environmental toxicologists has been very successfully conducted at the Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES) at Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan under its Global Center of Excellence (G-COE) Program during March 6–7, 2008 and this volume is an outcome of some of the full papers that have been presented at the symposium by leading scientists from all over the world.

I am very much pleased to present this volume for the view of the scientific community who are all involved in the POPs toxicological research. I am very much proud that, as I have already stated in the preface of the abstract book of this symposium, that the efforts by my colleagues in the recent past years under the 21st Century COE program and the present G-COE programs are producing valuable fruits, such as this Proceedings, which I really see as an wonderful outcome. We are also now proceeding well towards fostering and developing the Asian network of environmental toxicologists that we have developed in this symposium. This volume contains full papers of the excellent talks delivered and posters that were exhibited at the symposium.

I am very much thankful to Prof. Masayuki Komatsu, President, Ehime University and Prof. Hidetaka Takeoka, Director, Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES), Ehime University for all their generous support before, during and after the conduct of the symposium. I am also thankful to Dr. Yasunori Murakami, Dr. Shin-Ichi Kitamura and Dr. Kei Nakayama of Ehime University for their fullest involvement in making all the arrangements of the symposium including the production of this wonderful volume. I also thank the kind helps extended by the office bearers of Ehime University and the student volunteers.

The logistical support of the symposium was generously provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan

and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) under the G-COE program. I thank all the participants of the symposium, especially the contributors for this volume who are always very much supportive to all our scientific activities, especially our G-COE program.



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