

Preface

It is my pleasure to present this Proceeding, the compilation of the full papers of the talks delivered in the Interdisciplinary Symposium on Environmental Sciences—To establish an Asian Network of Environmental Researchers, organized by the Global COE Program in Ehime University. I can proudly say that, this volume is an outcome of, not only the talks delivered and the posters exhibited at the symposium, but the cream of the joint research works of G-COE members with their respective collaborating scientists from all over the world, especially in Asian developing countries, for the past more than three decades. As I have already stated in the preface of the abstract book of this symposium, we are now trying to fill up the existing lacuna in the information on pollution status of those countries, especially with regard to trace elements and persistent toxic substances. By compiling this volume, which provides a data bank produced by analyzing samples from these countries and the laboratory experiments conducted on those specimens, I feel that we have crossed a mile stone in this direction.

One of the aims of the G-COE program is creating skilled scientific manpower in Asian developing countries, which we have been developing from the days of the predecessor institute, the Department of Environment Conservation of Ehime University from the 1980s. We have been training students from developing countries and I was very much elated to see the overwhelming response of our alumni in attending the symposium. When I heard and saw the success stories of our alumni in the form of the lectures delivered and posters exhibited in the symposium I had the satisfaction, that the CMES, Ehime University team of scientists did their job well in developing the skilled manpower in those countries. This volume contains many of those success stories. Still I feel that we have long miles to go, for developing a pollution free world, which is the aim of our network. I am sure this volume will help all of us in strengthening our ties as an Asian Network of Scientists, the ultimate goal of the G-COE program of the CMES.

The outcome of this symposium has given an insight into the pollution problems of the Asian countries and the possible way out. This is the time that we have to work on programs for curbing the pollution in those countries, through the network that we have formed in this symposium. This symposium and this volume are the fruits of untiring and unrelenting efforts of the G-COE members. The financial assistance for the conduct of this symposium and the preparation of this volume has been generously provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Government of Japan through the G-COE grants and also by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). My heartfelt thanks are due to Prof. Masayuki Komatsu, former President, Prof. Yasunobu

Yanagisawa, President, Ehime University and Prof. Hidetaka Takeoka, Director, CMES for all their helps and advice. I thank all my colleagues, staff, scholars and students who have helped me in organizing the symposium and in bringing out this volume. I thank all the contributors to this volume, for their wonderful lectures and posters presented at the symposium and also for the articles presented for this volume.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Japanese characters. The characters appear to be '田辺 信介' (Tanabe Shinsuke).

Shinsuke Tanabe
Professor, CMES and Leader, G-COE