

Preface

I consider editing this Proceeding as a privilege; it was a tough but pleasurable task to me. The symposium on Biological Responses to Chemical Contaminants: from Molecular to Community Level—Interdisciplinary Symposium for Young Investigators was held at the Center for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM), University of Aveiro, Portugal and organized in collaboration with the Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES), Ehime University, Japan, under their Global Center of Excellence (G-COE) Program, during 2–4, September 2009. This symposium has created appeal and interest to molecular biologists, ecologists and toxicologists at the same time. At the symposium, 12 invited lectures and 16 oral presentations were made apart from exhibition of 38 posters on different aspects of molecular biology, general ecology of macro organisms and toxicology. The purpose of this symposium is to help promoting the academic exchange and research collaborations among scientists in these two Centers and encouraging students of these two institutes to study into this fascinating area of Environmental Sciences. After this symposium, we feel that the time is now ripe for collaboration between the two institutes. We have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutes and are planning many collaborative ventures. I am proud to have been a tool for this collaboration, which will not end with this symposium but will continue with several such activities.

The scope of this volume is wide and covers studies on antibiotic resistance in bacteria, degradation capacity of bacterial forms, life history parameters of micro and macro organisms, endocrine disrupting pollutants, etc. This Proceeding contain 29 papers presented at the symposium, representing wide range of activities that are carried out by scientists from Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and UK. The novelty of research findings that were delivered and discussed in the symposium can be found in this Proceeding for the benefit of all the readers of this volume.

As the organizer and one of the editors of this volume I pay the first credit for the quality of the Symposium and this Proceeding to all paper presenters. I thank all the presenters for selecting this symposium for presenting it and also for submitting their papers. I also thank the reviewers of all the papers for their wonderful reviews which they did for nothing in return. I have really enjoyed working together with the committee members of the University of Aveiro, Portugal, and the scientists who attended the symposium, the paper presenters and also the referees who reviewed the papers.

The staff of my own department (CMES) and from CESAM, University of Aveiro, Portugal has done a great job assisting me in making all the arrangements for the symposium. The sponsoring of funds from the Ministry of Education,

Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan through the G-COE grants to Ehime University is greatly acknowledged. The University of Aveiro is acknowledged for hosting the Symposium and their wonderful arrangements and hospitality.

I thank Prof. Yasunobu Yanagisawa, President, Ehime University, Prof. Helena Nazare, Rector, University of Aveiro, Prof. Hidetaka Takeoka, Director, CMES, Ehime University and Prof. Amadeu Soares, Head, Department of Biology, University of Aveiro for the organizational help, advices, discussion and the time they spent for the success of this symposium and the successful completion of this volume.

I wish and hope that the papers contained in this volume will be helpful toward providing information for the recent research avenues that will be undertaken by the readers in their respective fields of specializations covered.



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