

Preface

In the world of scientific research, the services of environmental specimen banks are coming into limelight at a faster rate. With the growing scarcity of environmental and biotic samples due to severe restrictions imposed by several governments as conservatory measures, scarcity of funds carrying out sampling trips, etc., a time is fast approaching when many of the environmental scientists will have to depend mostly on specimen banks for their research. In the present day, the interest in scientific research is falling among scientists due to constrictions in the availability of specimens. Both environmental and toxicological research will be depending on such banks for achieving their goals of saving the mankind from the ill effects of toxins and pollutants. Now is the time to archive the samples collected with much difficulty, for future generation, in a well organized manner. In such a situation, apart from the very few existing specimen banks, there is an absolute need for establishing many more at developed and developing nations.

This International Symposium on Environmental Specimen Bank, Exploring Possibility of Setting-up ESBs in Developing Countries held during December 3–5, 2009, at Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan, looked at ways to advance the usage of Specimen Banks, the much needed and unavoidable facility for the future scientists with careers in different facets of basic and advanced research in science of the environment.

When we called for conducting this symposium, there was overwhelming response by all those who are either managing specimen banks already or wanting to establish one at their place, with many oral or poster presentations made at the symposium. There were three keynote lectures and 28 oral presentations in the symposium apart from the posters exhibited. Of these presentations, this volume contains 29 full papers from the authors who have opted to present their manuscripts to this volume. The manuscripts have been reviewed by people chosen for their technical expertise in respective fields. The purpose of this Proceedings is to provide candid and critical views that will assist the ES Bankers to obtain a published report as sound as possible. At the same time, we have also ensured that this volume meets the requirements of future ES Bankers in getting the required knowledge on ES Bank. Apart from these 29 informative papers, this book contains a summary of the discussion held on the final day of the symposium that explains the panel discussion held and the decisions taken on the future course of action for improving the existing facilities and for establishing specimen banks in developing countries. Certainly this volume is a stepping stone in journey of the present and future ES Bankers.

The conduct of this symposium and the publication of this volume are the results of the consolidated efforts of many. Among them, the helps and advices

rendered by Prof. Yasunobu Yanagisawa, President, Ehime University and Prof. Hidetaka Takeoka, Director, Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES), Ehime University were the most invaluable for this success. I gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Government of Japan and the Japan Society of Promotion of Science (JSPS). The entire responsibility of organizing this event was borne by the teaching and administrative staff and also the researchers and students of CMES. I profoundly thank the contributors to this volume and also the people who have shared the editorial work.



Shinsuke Tanabe
Professor, CMES, Ehime University and Leader, G-COE Program