



Opening remarks at the 3rd international
symposium on health hazards of arsenic
contamination of groundwater and its
countermeasures

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**Opening Remarks at the 3rd International Symposium
on Health Hazards of Arsenic Contamination of Groundwater
and its Countermeasures**

Tatsuo SUGANUMA, MD. Ph. D.
President of the University of Miyazaki,
Miyazaki 889-2192, Japan

It is my great pleasure to address the opening remarks at this symposium again following the 2nd Symposium in 2010. First of all, on behalf of the University of Miyazaki, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the participants from all over the world and around Asia. Next year will come to mark the 10th year since the University of Miyazaki has been re-established as a result of the merger between the old Miyazaki University and the Miyazaki Medical College and was formed from their four faculties: Education and Culture, Medicine, Engineering, and Agriculture. In the past decennium, by advocating our motto, "Look at the World, Start with the Community," we have strived to meet the versatile demands of society by the advancing and interdisciplinary quality of education and research. Japan's first Interdisciplinary Graduate School (a Doctoral Course) integrated Agriculture and Engineering in 2007, a Major in Development of the Teaching Profession at the Graduate School of Education in 2008, and Japan's first Graduate School (Doctoral Course) for medicine and veterinary sciences were established at the University of Miyazaki in April 2010.

Historically, we have examined residents suffering from arsenic poisoning in the Toroku mining area of Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan for over 40 years. Since 1996, the University of Miyazaki has also researched arsenic problems and performed countermeasures against arsenic with the NPO, Asia Arsenic Network (AAN) in places such as Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal and India. The University of Miyazaki has concluded the Comprehensive Partnership Agreement with International Cooperation Network Miyazaki including AAN on international cooperation since July 2012. In these last 5 years, we have conducted "Bahraich Arsenic Mitigation Project (BAMP)" at Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh state of India, commissioned by JICA. In the first session of this symposium, the further prospect of arsenic mitigation in the Basin of Ganges River will be briefed from BAMP and another arsenic mitigation project of Kyushu University in Nepal, which is supported by JICA Partnership Program.

And now, the interdisciplinary research group "IRISH", "International Research and Innovation for Sustainable Human-life", has been established to continue to play an active role on the attainment of our target "Formation of a Sustainable Living Environment for All Asian People" since 2011. IRISH will be actively engaged with international colleagues in various fields involving environmental and human wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for your successful completion at this symposium. You may have heard of the Japanese saying "San-nin yoreba Monju no chie" which means "Two heads are better than one". I am eagerly expecting that an innovative solution strategy of hazards of environment and health will be generated from the encounters in this symposium.

I truly appreciate your joining us to extend the international mutual collaboration on the arsenic problem in environment and health.