



Steps toward sustainable development with  
international relationship in Asia

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## Steps toward sustainable development with international relationship in Asia

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On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the participants of the 3rd International Symposium on Health Hazards of Arsenic Contamination of Ground Water and its Countermeasures (Arsenic-Sympo in MIYAZAKI).

The first Arsenic-Sympo in MIYAZAKI was held in Miyazaki city on 2006 which was 35th year anniversary from 1971 of the official recognition of the Toroku arsenic disease. We looked back over and appreciated the arsenic pollution and disease in Toroku, Miyazaki, and had meaningful discussions and exchanges on the present situation of arsenic pollution in Asia, the effect of arsenic on organism, and recent research relating arsenic. After the 1st symposium, the university of Miyazaki was commissioned by JICA to carry out the program "Integrated Approach for Arsenic Mitigation at Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh State, India".

In 2008, we had the 2nd Arsenic-Sympo. The results of the research and the activities of the JICA project at Bahraich, the situation of arsenic pollution from Asian countries, and the arsenic research in various research fields were reported. We reaffirmed the deep-rootedness of the arsenic pollution in Asia, the increasing needs of its countermeasures and the pollution of other toxic substances in groundwater and soil at spread area. We were also recognized the importance of the research network made up by this arsenic symposium to solve these environmental problems. The university of Miyazaki was commissioned again by JICA to continue the project at Bahraich on 2010. The 2nd project has carried out to introduce the independent and sustainable activities for arsenic countermeasures by local community resident and/or local administration of the polluted country.

In March on 2011, the east part of Japan, especially east coast area, suffered serious damage by a quite strong earthquake, the following big tsunami and the further accidents of the nuclear power plants. The suffering by the accidents of the nuclear power plant is continuing now. However, the disaster-stricken area is gradually rebuilding day by day by the kindly and warm support from many people and many countries. By the disaster, the pollution of toxic substances and radioactive substances to air, groundwater and soil has been caused and has threatened our health. During the overcome of these disasters by many supports, we consider that it is important to reconsider our ideas for environment, health and energy from a perspective of sustainable development and to reconstruct our life based on the reconsideration.

Here we will have 3rd Arsenic-Sympo to report the research and the activity of the 2nd JICA project carried out at the middle course of Ganges river, to report and exchange the environmental pollutions of toxic substances including arsenic and their countermeasures in Asia, and to discuss and exchange of the resent results of various research fields relating arsenic and pollution substances. The discussion and exchange in the symposium will strongly form the network on the research area relating to the environmental pollution in Asia. The network will effectively work to solve various environmental problems in the world and to construct our sustainable life. I hope this symposium will become the next step for our sustainable development in Asia.

The Chair is deeply indebted to the members of IRISH (International Research and Innovation for Sustainable Human-life) which is a research group relating to environmental problems including arsenic pollution in the university of Miyazaki.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to Miyazaki Convention & Visitors Bureau, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and The Naito Foundation for financial support of this symposium.