

## Messages

### **Academic Linkages Through the Kuroshio Current**

#### **Rhodora V. Azanza**

Professor of Marine Science and  
Director, Office of International Linkages  
University of the Philippines

I have always been proud of the Graduate School of Kuroshio Science Kochi University established 8 years ago. I remember I was one of the few privileged to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Kuroshio Science Conference held in Kochi University. The graduate school has been named after a great current system passing first my country and feeding not only our inland marine and other waters then going up to our close neighbors, particularly Japan, thus nourishing the communities human and others along the way.

There has been no academic program named after a natural phenomenon. It bespeaks the deeper concern of the Kochi University academics and administrators for the present and the future of this system that has been significantly

impacting the natural resources, climate and cultures of this region. The participation and interaction of both natural and social scientists, applied and basic, in the researches on the Kuroshio provide invaluable information for managers and policy makers for the sustainability of goods and services that it has been immeasurably providing. Yet, humanity must try to quantify, qualify and appreciate these benefits from the Kuroshio and its environment.

On the occasion of its 8<sup>th</sup> year, congratulations and thank you to the Kochi University, Kuroshio Graduate School . I wish to make special mention of those who have been connected with my professional relationship with Kochi University namely Vice Pres. Kimio Fukami and Prof. Emeritus Yoshinori Morooka. I wish also to acknowledge the organizers, Prof. Akira Tominaga and Prof. Syun-ichiro Oshima for organizing a stimulating and enjoyable 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Kuroshio Science and using their own words we need to “create the future from the Kuroshio current area”, through our academic collaboration and friendship.