

## Foreword

### Cross-Border Education and Sustainable Society

**Hiroshi Wakiguchi**

President, Kochi University



Congratulations on the publication of Vol. 9 No. 1 of *Kuroshio Science*.

The main theme of this number is *Kuroshio University League Network Formation Toward the Establishment of a Sustainable Society in the Kuroshio Region Through Cross-Border Education*. To make this effective, the most important key will be the establishment of the *Kuroshio Science Consortium Academy*. I trust that this will be realized soon, now that approval has been obtained from the major members who took part in the recent 8<sup>th</sup> *Kuroshio University League Network Formation Toward the Establishment of a Sustainable Society in the Kuroshio Region Through Cross-Border Education*.

With the rapid development of transportation systems and the globalization of both politics and the economy, the distance and frequency of people's travel have increased beyond our imagination in recent years, and international society is being vigorously diversified. We cannot create a *Sustainable Society* promoting happiness at an international level if we maintain educational and research systems that are only relevant to a single country. We need intense and intimate international exchanges and contributions.

**Cross-Border Education** is an international education scheme that maintains and assures quality education and learning with mutual collaboration among universities from a number of countries that have different internal situations. Developing truly global education, accepted across different cultures, customs, traditions and histories, will require a large expenditure of time and effort by many universities. But I

believe that it will be possible, thanks to the establishment of the **Kuroshio Science Consortium Academy**. This will construct high quality **Cross-Border Education** by means of organic collaboration among the countries of the Kuroshio region, from those in its upstream to Japan in its downstream.

Today it is feared that marine resources will soon be used up, and it is of urgent necessity to develop means for environmental preservation and the management of marine resources. It will be impossible to produce sustainable food for the world's population unless we construct an appropriate consumption and production plan. Maintenance of the food supply requires production of food for both humans and domestic animals, water, land for agriculture and land for living. It has recently been announced that CO<sub>2</sub> levels are reaching a critical level. Global warming is causing a rise in sea levels, eroding the world's land area. In light of this, education and research along the Kuroshio region are not just a matter of Kuroshio-related marine resources. They involve, comprehensively and organically, all education and research from that on forests to cultivated land, from human villages to marine water, and from marine resources to seabed resources, across the entire Kuroshio region. Accordingly, **the Graduate School of Kuroshio Integrated Science** offers interdisciplinary innovation in both arts and sciences. It has been promoting education and research for over a decade, crossing borders between disciplines, though not between countries. Now, however, we at Kochi University are happy and proud to contribute to the construction of high quality **Cross-Border Education**.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my kindest moral support to the 9<sup>th</sup> Symposium, which will be hosted by Professor Houn-Yung Chen, Dean of the College of Marine Sciences, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan. I hope it will be an even greater success than the previous symposium hosted at Kochi University.