

Opening Remarks

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Good morning everyone. I am Ukeda, director in charge of international affairs at Kochi University.

First of all, on behalf of Kochi University, I sincerely welcome 182 participants from 7 countries in this symposium. This time, due to the spread of COVID-19, we gave up the face-to-face holding and decided to hold such an online event. Since the event was canceled last year, we planned to invite all participants from overseas to Kochi this year so that you can fully experience the attraction of Kochi through academic exchanges and enjoyable excursions. However, I am sorry that it was still impossible to do that.

On the other hand, remote communication is routinely used all over the world, and it was a year to recognize that this communication works well as an alternative to the real world. I would like you to realize how easy it is to participate in an international symposium by saving travel time and without putting major restrictions on your daily life.

This symposium will have about 50 general oral presentations and about 30 poster presentations. The content of those presentations covers not only marine invertebrates and marine aquatic organisms, but also plant diversity and many researches concerning Kuroshio science. I undoubtedly confirm that those researches would contribute to sustain our global environment.

In this symposium, I hope new academic collaborations will be born while stimulating the intellectual curiosity of all the participants. And I expect a face-to-face symposium will be held next year. Finally I thank you so much for your kind participation again.

Thank you for your attention.