

To Our Readers

This booklet *Abridged and Illustrated for Easy Understanding—Annual Report on the Environment in Japan* is a summary of the *Quality of the Environment in Japan 2005* (White Paper), an annual report on the environment issued by the Government, published on June 17, 2005. The content of this booklet was edited to reach out to a wider readership with a more readable publication. This booklet offers an overview on the subject of “A Low Carbon Society—A New Era Shaped by ‘People’ and ‘System’” (in Part One) as well as a digest of environmental conservation policies and measures implemented by the Government in FY 2004 (in Part Two).

The *Quality of the Environment in Japan 2005* was printed by Gyosei Corporation. The Ministry of the Environment also published the *Annual Report on the Environment for Children* on November 17, 2005, which is edited for easy understanding by primary and middle school students. They are also available on the Ministry of the Environment websites:

Quality of the Environment in Japan (<http://www.env.go.jp/policy/hakusyo/>)

Annual Report on the Environment for Children (<http://www.env.go.jp/policy/hakusyo/kodomo.html>)

They are presented in Japanese only.

Back issues of *Quality of the Environment in Japan* and *Abridged and Illustrated for Easy Understanding—Annual Report on the Environment in Japan* are available on the Ministry of the Environment website (<http://www.env.go.jp/en/w-paper/index.html>).

Besides the topics covered in this booklet, the *Quality of the Environment in Japan 2005* also introduces the following websites for your reference:

- Toward the Realization of a Virtuous Circle for Environment and Economy in Japan (http://www.env.go.jp/policy/env_econo/index.html)
- Ecominister (My family’s Minister of the Environment) (<http://www.env.go.jp/policy/wagaya/index.html>) (in Japanese only)
- EcoFamily Website (<http://www.eco-family.jp/>) (in Japanese only)
- Global Environment Information Centre (<http://www.geic.or.jp/geic/>)

The drawing on the front cover is the work of Akane Iwao, a then third-year student at the Oita Prefectural Hijiyokoku High School. The drawing won the Minister of the Environment Award (General Category) in the 2005 White Paper on the Environment Cover Page Illustration Contest sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment and the Japan Environment Association.

Ms. Iwao commented, “I drew with the hope that, by supporting the global environment, we can co-exist with many other living things on earth in the future.”

The drawing on the back cover is the work of Satsuki Suzuki, a then fourth-grade student at the Sendai City Municipal Yoshinari Primary School in Miyagi Prefecture. It received honorable mention in the same Cover Page Illustration Contest.

Ms. Suzuki commented, “A society kind to the environment is a society that protects the earth, and that means a society where all living things live together by being nice to and supporting each other. The earth is very small in the whole universe and human beings are even smaller. But if we work together, we can protect our precious planet—the Earth.”