

## Greetings



Endocrine disruptors (EDs) are a focus of great concern among the general public because they may cause adverse effects on human beings and wildlife, not only for this generation but also for those to come. Certainly one of the major tasks of the government today is to eliminate anxieties about EDs as a necessary step to bring peace of mind in the 21st century.

We, the Environment Agency, Government of Japan, have been taking a series of measures to tackle ED-related issues. In 1998, we developed a program entitled "Strategic Programs on Environmental Endocrine Disruptors '98" (SPEED '98), and initiated environmental monitoring throughout the country. In addition, we are currently engaged in the exchange of information with other countries and international organizations under the framework of international coordination.

As a part of these activities, the Agency has held two in a series of International Symposiums on Environmental Endocrine Disruptors; first in Kyoto in 1998 and then in Kobe in 1999. These past symposiums brought together leading scientists from all over the world. Their productive discussions were highly appreciated on an international level. In order to make further progress based on these achievements, we have decided to hold a third International Symposium in Yokohama this round.

There are three major aims for the Symposium:

- to present the latest scientific knowledge about ED-related issues and to seek direction for future study;
- to grasp the current activities on the ED-related issues conducted under international cooperation and to discuss the best way to cooperate further; and
- to reconfirm the basic concept that protecting wildlife will also assure a safe environment for humans.

I earnestly hope that it will be a valuable conference for scientists, administrators, industry representatives and the general public around the world.

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