

## **Visitor Salutations**

### **Hiroshi Hase**

Member of the House of Representatives, Japan

Chairman of Subcommittee of Chemical Substances, Liberal Democratic Party

Good afternoon. You might be wondering what a politician has to do with this conference; I am the chairman of the Subcommittee of Chemical Substances for the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan. We have proposed the Law Concerning Special Measures against Dioxins, the Law Concerning Special Measures against PCBs of last year and will propose a law for cleaning up contaminants in the soil next year. Chemicals offer benefits but also pose risk. In order to control this, we are working together with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. You may think of the committee I am chairman of as the LDP's Subcommittee of Chemical Substances functioning as a liaison among ministries and agencies.

In August this year, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan became the first in the world to announce that nonylphenol could possibly pose a risk to fish as an environmental hormone. The international symposium at which a large number of researchers present the results of their research has since continued to be held. As a result, risk assessment has begun to take form. In the future, I believe that Japan must become a world leader in fighting the problem of environmental hormones. At the same time, I think it is also researcher's and our role to get across the fact that chemicals are not only risky substances that are dangerous or could possible be dangerous, but also play a huge role in our daily lives.

Although I think research of this problem will need to be conducted for a long time, from a political standpoint, we are prepared to support your efforts. I sincerely hope the symposium will produce results. Thank you very much.