

Closing Address

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I would like to say a few words in closing of the International Symposium on Environmental Endocrine Disrupters.

First I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of the speakers who have come all the way from overseas as well as those from the various regions of the country who have taken time out of their busy schedules to tell us of their latest findings.

At the same time, many of you have participated in discussion of the various themes over the past three days. Thanks to you, our symposium has been a huge success.

We still don't have enough scientific knowledge to unravel the complicated and diverse matter of environmental endocrine disrupters, so participation and cooperation of people from various fields of research is absolutely indispensable. I however sense we have made remarkable progress in advancing research of the problem of environmental endocrine disrupters through the discussions in our four symposiums on the project.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the simultaneous interpreters who did an outstanding job and everyone who provided a great help for preparing this event. I would also like to thank to everyone involved for their cooperation, beginning with Ibaraki Prefecture and the city of Tsukuba.

After a reshuffling of the central ministries, the Ministry of the Environment started on January 6 this year as a replacement of Environment Agency. Needless to say, ensuring safe society and peaceful mind of the citizens of Japan is an important mission of the new Ministry of the Environment. We intend to continue to work enthusiastically on ways to deal with chemical substances including environmental endocrine disrupters. We ask for your continued understanding and support concerning this problem. That brings our symposium to a close. Thank you very much.