

Salutations

Kenji Manabe

Member of the House of Councilors, Japan

Hello everybody. Thank you very much for attending our symposium. As you just heard, my name is Kenji Manabe.

I am currently the chairman of the budget committee in the House of Councilors, and I am involved with the budget for dealing with the problem of endocrine disrupters for the coming fiscal year.

I therefore pledge to provide the funds to hold the symposium again in the next fiscal year. This allotment would not be provided without my approval, hence this overstatement. This is the fourth time this event has been held. I had a friendly relationship with Mr. Prescott, who was deputy prime minister of the U.K. at the time of the first symposium and Mr. Meacher, Minister for the Environment of the U.K.. When we spoke, they expressed a desire for us to hold an international symposium in Japan, and the first gathering was held in Kyoto.

This is now the fourth time the event has been held, and I now feel happy that I listened to everybody's opinion and decided to hold the conference in Japan. The world is now in an uproar about frequent terrorist attacks, but I profoundly feel that Japan should keep constitution that forbids having weapons, that it should not dominate the world with an economic power, and that it must maintain world equality.

Speaking from this point of view, Japan desires to lead the world in this field of technology, particularly concerning the problem of environmental hormones. I am delighted to have the foremost authorities in their respective fields be with us here today. I ask for your assistance and cooperation in helping us achieve our desire to be a world leader in fighting environmental problems.

Even observing conferences on environmental hormones that were held in recent years, there is still much uncharted territory and uncertainty concerning the subject, so we may ask your cooperation to make progress in this field year by year seeking your opinions.

We pray that everyone here today from both overseas and Japan will devote himself to solving these problems as soon as possible. There are all sorts of awards in Japan, and it is a great thing to receive one of these awards. I feel it would be nice if a world authority award can be given at this conference. I feel that the results of this conference would be equal to the Nobel Prize.

While hoping you will devote yourselves to your research, since you are here in Japan, we hope you will take time to visit some good spots in Japan, do some sightseeing, and if you can, spend a little money.

I welcome you to our symposium and pray that you will be successful in your endeavors. Thank you very much.