

Visitor Salutations

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Governor, Hiroshima Prefecture

I would first like to express my heartiest congratulations on the staging of this splendid fifth installment of the International Symposium on Environmental Endocrine Disrupters with participation by so many from inside and outside Japan, as well as my deep gratitude to the concerned personnel from the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan and all others who worked so hard on behalf of this event.

Environmental endocrine disrupters are a source of apprehension about impact on human health and the ecosystem long into the future, and have not yet been scientifically elucidated in many respects.

For this reason, they have become the focus of much investigation and research in countries around the world. In Japan, too, the “Strategic Programs on Environmental Endocrine Disrupters ’98 (SPEED ’98)” was put together in 1998 and basic perspectives and specific guidelines for action on the problem were issued.

The government of Hiroshima Prefecture has also been active on this front. Since fiscal 1999, we have been conducting our own studies of the level of contamination by endocrine disrupters as a key program for assuring the health of our citizens and putting their minds at ease.

In this context, I consider the staging of the Symposium here in our prefecture to be of great significance and value.

I earnestly hope that the Symposium will serve to encourage the sharing of information among authorities working on endocrine disrupters around the world and thereby move the research forward, as well as deepen understanding of the problem among people as much as possible.

I would like to add that Hiroshima Prefecture contains many sites of absorbing interest, such as the beautiful waters of the Seto Inland Sea, the exquisite World Heritage site of Itsukushima Shrine on the island of Miyajima in this Inland Sea, and, of course, the atomic bomb blast memorial that stands as a symbol of yearnings for world peace.

I urge all of you to take full advantage of this opportunity to experience all that our prefecture has to offer.

In closing, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for the success of the Symposium and the health and happiness of all its participants.