

Closing Address

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It falls to me to close this International Symposium on Environmental Endocrine Disrupters 2002.

I would like to begin by thanking the experts who spoke at this symposium, traveling all the way from abroad, or interrupting their busy schedules to gather here from all over Japan, and share their latest findings with us. Thank you very much.

May I also express my gratitude to the many participants who have participated with such enthusiasm in many different discussions over the past three days. I am deeply grateful to all participants for bringing this symposium to a conclusion with so many and such outstanding achievements.

Our scientific knowledge is still insufficient to the task of unraveling the complex and varied issues involved in endocrine disrupters. Therefore, the active participation and cooperation of people from a wide range of research areas is absolutely required to achieve the goal. However, with this fifth symposium where various discussions were held under the theme of endocrine disrupter issues, I begin to feel that we are making solid progress in research on these substances.

I would also like to thank the simultaneous interpreters who have worked so hard over this period, along with those who involved in preparations. Our thanks and appreciation extend to everyone concerned, especially to the Hiroshima prefectural and municipal staff involved.

Of course, guarding the safety and peace of mind of our citizens is an important duty of the Ministry of the Environment. We intend to make even greater efforts in future to deal with problems of chemical substances including environmental endocrine disrupters.

Next year's symposium is planned for December 3rd through 5th, in Sendai city. Now I would like to close this symposium by asking for your further understanding and support on these issues in future. Thank you very much.