

Participants of the International Symposium on Endocrine Disruption:

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE) had conducted various measures on the endocrine disrupting effects of substances since 1998. Based on the scientific knowledge accumulated through these activities, in March 2005 MOE released “MOE’s Perspectives on Endocrine Disrupting Effects of Substances - ExTEND2005 -” as a summary of its activities to date and also as a new guideline for subsequent initiatives on the issue.

Since April 2005, in accordance with ExTEND2005, MOE has been promoting activities with a broader scope as part of a comprehensive approach to chemical issues. The main areas covered are: observation of wildlife, environmental monitoring, fundamental research, technological development and risk communication.

MOE has been holding this annual international symposium since 1998 to facilitate international cooperation on the issue of endocrine disruption, and this is the 8th symposium. From this year, the title has changed to “International Symposium on Endocrine Disruption” for consistency with the basic principals of ExTEND2005. As ExTEND2005 establishes the need to promote information sharing, risk communication and international cooperation, MOE has set two clear aims for the symposium: information sharing with the general public in respect of the program for general audiences and exchange of knowledge and opinions among foreign and domestic experts in respect of the program for experts.

We hope this year’s symposium will be a significant opportunity for all participants to share information and exchange wide-ranging opinions on the issue of endocrine disruption in the context of comprehensive strategies for chemicals.

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The Secretariat