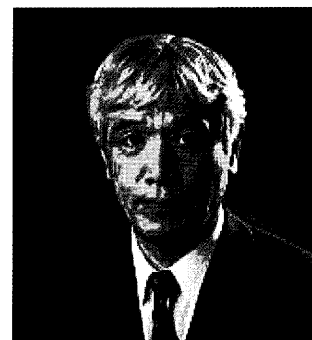


# Welcome Speech from President of Kanazawa University

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## Welcome Speech from President of Kanazawa University



I would like to extend you my warmest welcome to the 4th International Symposium of the Kanazawa University 21st-Century COE Program, with the theme “Promoting Environmental Research in Pan-Japan Sea Area -Young Researchers’ Network-”. The Japan Sea is a marginal sea surrounded by Japanese Islands, Korean Peninsula and Eurasian Continent. East Asian countries have a large population and are developing rapidly in industry and economy with remarkable innovations. I believe that environmental issues in this area will increase in importance. International collaboration, especially among promising young researchers being interested in environmental research on the Pan-Japan Sea area, will be absolutely necessary to resolve the problems, because environmental problems are borderless. The symposium will be a good opportunity for young researchers to exchange information each other and increase the level of communication of their research. I strongly hope that international collaboration among young researchers in East Asian countries will promote cooperative research and the formation of educational networks.

KANAZAWA is surrounded by the Japan Alps, Hakusan National Park and Noto Peninsula National Park. Two rivers run through the city. Such a beautiful natural background gives the city a relaxed feeling. Kanazawa has been ruled over by the Maeda family for three centuries after the first lord; Toshiie Maeda entered Kanazawa Castle in 1583. Since then it has achieved high level of craftsmanship that continues to flourish to this day. Kanazawa is also a famous place for rich diet: *Sashimi* (raw fish), *sushi*, *sake* (Japanese rice wine), and Japanese traditional sweets are some of the highest quality in Japan.

I hope that this International Symposium will be fruitful and enjoyable to all the people who take part in. I also hope that you would enjoy your short stay in Kanazawa.

Yujiro HAYASHI  
President, Kanazawa University

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yujiro Hayashi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.