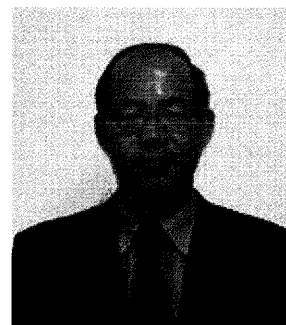


Greeting of Welcome to the 4th International Symposium of the Kanazawa University 21st-Century COE Program

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The Sea of Japan is rich in natural resources. However, this sea is very sensitive to chemical or radioactive contamination, because it is closed with narrow channels at both ends. In the meantime, the surrounding countries, China, Korea, Mongolia, Russia and Japan, have large populations and are rapidly developing their industries and economies with remarkable innovations. With the development of these countries, a large amount of carbon dioxide, acidic compounds and combustion particulates are released. These pollutants, when combined with the natural materials such as yellow sands, etc., can have a large effect on the environment at global scale. To prevent the disaster and to ensure that the Pan-Japan Sea area remains prosperous and safe, prediction of long- and short-term change in the environment and development and maintenance and accident prevention countermeasures based on the prediction are very important. This is the most important mission of the Kanazawa University 21st Century COE, this is Center of Excellence, Program **“Environmental Monitoring and Prediction of Long- and Short-Term Dynamics of Pan-Japan Sea Area: Construction of Monitoring Network and Assessment of Human Effects”**.

This COE program has been started from 2002 with the financial support by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan. The goals of the COE program are to construct data information networks, to predict environmental variations based on the monitoring, to maintain useful resources and to use them efficiently, and to prevent accidents that could damage the environment. Not only to research but also to educate young researchers is very important. Therefore, the purpose of the 4th international symposium of our COE program is to make a strong young researchers' network of this area. I hope all of the participants will have good friends and valuable experiences in this symposium.

Project Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Japanese characters: 早川 和一 (Hayakawa Kazuichi).

Kazuichi Hayakawa, Ph.D.