

International Workshop on Eco-city and Biodiversity

The Eleventh Tripartite Presidents Meeting
among NIES, NIER and CRAES

Welcome Address

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November 13, 2014

Good morning everyone.

From the bottom of my heart I would like to extend my warmest welcome to you. I am pleased that you have chosen Kawasaki City as the venue for your conference. I am very happy and proud both as a representative and as a citizen of Kawasaki.



As almost all Japanese were aware, Kawasaki City was one of the most polluted cities in Japan, only 50 years ago. Did you have a chance to see the beautiful sky this morning? I think you may even have been able to see Mt. Fuji through a clear sky, a sight which transcends any words I might use to describe it.

In addition to air pollution, the Tama River (Tamagawa) which runs alongside this building was particularly polluted with bubbles coming out of it 30-40 years ago. Today, thankfully you can see that the river has clean water, which is the home to a rich aquatic ecosystem. As many as ten million Ayu fish (*Plecoglossus altivelis*), an indicator of good aquatic conditions, can be found in this river every spring.

You can also see that some wildlife such as clams now thrive in the area beside Haneda Airport, a good example of biodiversity restoration.

As one of the commercial policies of Kawasaki, we have enforced a “Green Innovation” policy in our strategy for growth. Kawasaki City has used different types of power generation plants including biomass, solar energy and hydroelectric generation systems.

We are currently planning to construct a hydrogen power plant.

Kawasaki City hosts the Eco-Tec Fair in every February, and this past February we hosted 200 visitors from around 14 different countries. I hope the Korean and Chinese delegates are able to come back to Kawasaki City and perhaps to join the upcoming fair in February.

Again, I welcome you and I hope that this workshop will prove fruitful for you all.

Thank you.