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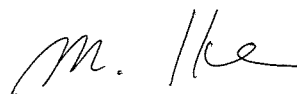
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Preface

In FY2007, we had held the 8th Core University Program (CUP) General Seminar in Da Nang City, Vietnam, and we could add the wonderful memory to our CUP history by this event. I would like to give my special thanks to the President of Da Nang University, Prof. Bui Van Ga for kindly allowing us to use wonderful conference venue and wonderful arrangement with great support by the CUP leader, Prof. Mai Trong Nhuan and the CUP coordinator Prof. Pham Hung Viet. We, both Vietnamese and Japanese colleagues, have really enjoyed beautiful scenery, good meals, cheerful atmosphere, warm-hearted hospitality and “of course” the enthusiastic academic discussion there. The only regret of mine is that I missed the chance to swim because of the heavy rain on the final day of the stay in Da Nang City.

FY2007 was the 9th year, i.e., semi-final year, of CUP, and ten cooperative research projects were run as usual year. On the cooperative research projects, 41 Vietnamese researchers have come to Japan and 21 Japanese researchers have visited Vietnam. The Da Nang Seminar gathered 41 Japanese and 99 Vietnamese colleagues, and totally 78 academic papers were presented in the fields of Topic-1; Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, Topic-2; Environmental Creation and Conservation, Topic-3; Development of Total Environmental Technology, and in addition Mathematical Methods for Environmental Science and Technology and Naval Architecture as the special topics. The Annual Report of FY2007 includes the Da Nang Seminar presentations as the fruitful results of the CUP research projects.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to JSPS and VAST for supporting the CUP and to say thanks for all of the colleagues participating in the CUP



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Annually, the scientific general seminar in the framework of the “Core University Program” (CUP) is always a good chance for Vietnamese and Japanese scientists to meet and share scientific information as well as set-up the future cooperation in new research fields.

More than ten years of CUP have passed, and right after the closing remark of each general seminar, the Project Steering Committee spends time thinking about a new interesting place for the next seminar. Whether the seminar is held in Vietnam or Japan, the scientists of both sides can take pleasure in unforgettable experiences. During the time of seminars in Japan, we - Vietnamese scientists much enjoyed famous landscapes and experienced the modern and animated lifestyle. And when Vietnam was chosen as the seminar venue, we would like to show the Japanese counterparts all the beauty of every region in our beloved country as well as the adorable and hospitable characters of Vietnamese people.

Ha Long is a very famous tourism centre in the North Vietnam and its Ha Long Bay is recognized as the world natural wonder by UNESCO and the masterpiece attraction cannot be missed by all the domestic and foreign tourists. Together with Ha Long Bay, Bai Chay Precinct and communes of Tuan Chau, Hung Thang are now tourism-developed areas with modern hotels, restaurants and other buildings. In the bay, nearly 30 caves were discovered; Thien Cung, Dau Go, Sung Sot Caves are now considered to be more attractive destinations, etc. Right in this famous place, the General Seminar 2004 – the final seminar marking the turning point of the first phase of our CUP-JSPS Program with the coordination of Prof. Masanori Fujita - was held. Also at this place, Prof. Michihiko Ike - the successor - presented himself and took his new responsibility.

In the year 2007, our seminar was once again held in Vietnam. As the National Coordinator of CUP from Vietnamese side, I chose Da Nang City as the gathering place for this seminar. Da Nang City peacefully lies beside the gentle Han River; East-bound, Da Nang is surrounded by endless seaside and Son Tra Peninsula which still stays very primitive; north and west-bounds are magnificent mountains and mountain passes. The scarped Hai Van Mountain Pass is a natural boundary with Thua Thien Hue Province. Beside such wonderful scene, Da Nang City is also encircled by three world cultural heritages: Hue Ancient City, Hoi An Ancient City and My Son Holy Land; a little bit farther is the world natural wonder: Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park. Therefore, Da Nang is considered as the centre on the Middle World Heritage Road.

I am very proud to say that Da Nang is really an ideal place for scientists to relax after stressful working days, so I am very happy to have chance to visit this wonderful place and to introduce Da Nang City to you all. I believe that after this successful scientific seminar, the long-term cooperation among scientists of the two countries - Vietnam and Japan - will be more effective.

Thank you very much for your great cooperation.



Prof. Pham Hung Viet
The National Coordinator of CUP-JSPS Project on Vietnamese side