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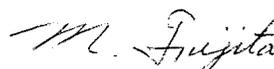
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## Preface

Five years have already passed since this Core University Program started, and nearly 170 people have been exchanged for the cooperative researches. Although fourteen researches are currently operated, through several mergers and terminations they settled down as they are, we will, of course, expect more changes in the structure of the researches in future. More than forty researchers have been exchanged under independent study. What makes me happy about the exchange is that young researchers exchanged were 20 % of all. The young ones have been trained and have gained experiences and knowledge through the program, and will become a powerful driving force for further development of cooperative structure of the two countries. Publication of papers, int'l and domestic conference proceedings, reports, and books through the activities of the program was also well done. One hundred and one, twenty-five, and fifty-one publications were counted for in Topics 1, 2, and 3, respectively, during the five years. These devastating achievements are attributable to individual efforts and excellent collaboration of the researchers in the two countries. I thank all researchers involved in the program very much for giving the program tremendous contributions and love.

The program soon will face soon the intermediate evaluation by JSPS, and our performance will be assessed. The result of evaluation will affect the rest of the program. I strongly believe that we will receive an A rank evaluation with these works which we have achieved, and that we will be able to go for another five years.

I would like to thank JSPS and NCST for supporting the program, which is now recognized as one of the most influential academic programs in Vietnam.



Prof. Masanori Fujita  
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This year is marked with great success of our Core University Program. The scientific results of the first period have been evaluated by JSPS and its excellent achievements have been proven for further conducting our project for the next 5 years of cooperation approved by JSPS. I am pleased to remark here some of the speaking data over the last 5 years: more than 170 scientists have been exchanged, over 150 papers in 3 topics have been published. And it is impossible not to mention about various seminars, workshops and symposia having been successfully organised in Japan and Vietnam. These activities certainly serve as a valuable scientific forum to disseminate recent advances in environmental sciences and technology as well as to further strengthen the excellent relationship between the two countries. I would like to emphasize that a considerable number of young scientists have been exchanged to do research in various leading laboratories in Japan; and some of the studies supported by the Core University Program have been recognized as significant contributions to the field of characterization and remediation of natural and affected environment, and they have been also highly acknowledged by the world of environmental scientists. And finally it is a great honour and pride that two active Japanese scientists have received the Noble Friendship Medal conferred by the Vietnamese Government for their significant contributions to Vietnamese education and training career. This is undoubtedly the sound justifications of the excellent outcomes of the Core University Program.

In the course of our efforts, we are aware of the importance and need for development and improvement of education and applicability of fundamental and advanced knowledge in environmental science and technology, particularly the capacity building for better quality research in Vietnam. A long-term cooperation among experts and budding scientists involved in a huge and powerful research project is always a better way for attaining this aspiration. I do hope that the Core University Program will certainly going on with future successes, and I would like to express our sincere thank and appreciation to all the scientists involved in the Program for their efforts, expertise and contributions. We are looking forward to the continued meaningful academic achievements in the coming time.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to JSPS and NCST for their willingness and effective support to the “Core University Program” project.



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