

## **Preface**

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We started the Full-Scale study period of Amur-Okhotsk Project for 2005-2009 this April, after finishing three-year (2002-2004) reconnaissance studies. Constructive discussions have been made for the last three years, and we finally decided the goal of Amur-Okhotsk Project such that we would propose an ideal relationship between land and ocean ecosystems including human kind in this region.

We have recognized a possible function of continent as a fish-feeding forest for ocean nearby. In the case of Amur River and the Sea of Okhotsk, the area expands to more than three millions square kilometers. This is a new concept of fish feeding forest because of its extraordinary size of area and of international nature of the problem. Clarifying material transport in the system and a possible anthropogenic impact on the system should be studied quite differently from those proposed for the conventional fish feeding forest with local scale.

We publish herewith the papers which were presented at 2nd International Symposium on Amur-Okhotsk Project held at Kyoto on March 22-24, 2005. The present volume provides various review papers on which the Amur-Okhotsk Project stands. The topics range from Physical Oceanography to Forest Management. I hope that readers listen to the voice of papers and consider it as your own problems. Continuous communication among various scientific fields is the most important key in achieving such a multi-disciplinary project.

On behalf of the project, I would like to thank all of the participants in the symposium. I am also indebted to Dr. Hideki NARITA, the previous leader of the project, for his great contribution to the preliminary stage. Finally, but not the least, I would thank Miss Tamaki KAWAGUCHI for her excellent help in editing this volume.