

Preface

It is my great pleasure to publish the “Report on Amur-Okhotsk Project No. 5”. This is the latest summary of our activities conducted in the frame work of the project. Topics given here range from marine biogeochemistry to agricultural economics. One might think that they are too diverse but I am now confident that many of the project members derive benefit from their crossing research boundaries.

In FY 2008, the Amur-Okhotsk Project entered its 4th year of a 5-year Full Research endeavor. It is time for all of the project members to consider whether we are achieving our goals or not. Since our project will be evaluated in February 2009 by the Project Evaluation Committee, we need to reach our preliminary conclusions before January 2009. I hope that all of the project members read the present reports very carefully and be ready for further discussion.

I would like to thank all of the contributors for submitting their inspiring research results without which this project could not have been developed to this point. My special thanks are given to our Russian and Chinese colleagues for their countless effort in conducting these joint works in such vast regions. Finally last but not least, I thank Ms. Tamaki Kawaguchi, an assistant of the Amur-Okhotsk Project, for her timeless effort in editing this report. She also revised the website of the project just recently and I would recommend you to access the website <http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/AMORE/> to check the latest news of the project.

Project Leader: SHIRAIWA Takayuki
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature